Reactions

'We don't fire at buildings for no

reason' shimon Peres 'An unfortunate

mistake' sud Barak sræel's foreign minister

'My white rubber

turned red from the blood' Hases

Seklawi, Lebanese UN fisia

'Unless and until

sheltering behind

civilians, awful

inevitable' gravita

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look at now is how

we can prevent a

recurrence' John

tragedies are

the British/Igraeij

Parliamentary group What we have to

the Hizbullah

shoes have

officer at Cons

The latest music and books

Ian McKellen on bringing the Bard to Hollywood

The birth of the popular press

Israelis kill 97 and injure 100 with rain of shells on UN refugee centre in Lebanon

# An unfortunate mistake"

David Hirst in Beirut and Hajia Abu Jahja in South Lebanon

ing, a radio operator at the Fiilan-manned United Nations base at Qana We're under fire . Shells are landing on head-quarters. People are dying

At least five 155mm howit-zer shells struck the base where 500 refugees from southern Lebanon had fled from the week-long Israeli onslaught. The result was car-nage. Nearly 100 people were killed and at least another 100

wounded.
"I saw the massacre of the Sarajevo market," said a UN officer. "But I can tell you that it was nothing compared

Most of the inhabitants of Qana, the village where Christ is said to have performed his first miracle of turning water into wine, had fled north after Israeli warnings, early in the campaign that they should leave or face the consquences. But many of those who stayed behind had taken refuge in the UN base. So had villagers from nearby

Every paramedic team in the UN force was mobilised. About 77 armoured UN vehicles rushed to the state. Is raeli warplanes continued to fire rockets that exploded near the base as rescue work dead and wounded. One ambulance came under helicop-ter fire: the driver and crew

managed to leap to safety.

As rescue teams collected severed heads and scattered limbs, putting them in plastic bags, UN soldiers fought off crowds of women, wesping and tearing their hair, as they struggled to get inside the compound to find out if their children were among the

In front of a burnt-out ship ping container, Muhammad Ghassan, from Qana, col-lapsed on the ground. "My wife, my three sons and two daughters are dead in there. made them sleep there so that they would be safe, while stayed at home in the village

What is left for me? Why should I go on living?" There was pandemonium at hospitals in Tyre when casu-alties arrived in private cars, ambulances and UN helicop-ters. "Where are you God," screamed a woman, shaking her fists in despair. People rolled on the floors, writhing with pain and fury. Others stood, shaking their hands above their heads in frus-trated rage and grief. Hospital floors were slick

**6** 10

with blood. Wards resounded



One hospital in Tyre put the death toll at 97. Ehud Barak, the Israeli for-eign minister, called it an unfortunate mistake".

Israel said its gunners had been responding to an attack from a Hizbullah Katyusha rocket fired from within 300 yards of the UN base. Hizbullah, in a statement from Belrut, denied it had fired from

Qana.

The Israeli army's rules of said from the scene. "I had to

AUDI dissidents are

with walls, screams and shouting as the injured not allow firing at a target poured in and doctors gave them immediate but sometimes rough and ready gathered under a traditional corpses were strewn about the provided that the within 500 yards of a UN base. Some of the victims had gathered under a traditional corpses were strewn about the provided that the within 500 yards of a UN base. Some of the victims had gathered under a traditional corpses were strewn about Israeli leaders said their bouri but that Fijlan soldiers built to remind themselves of

their Pacific Island home. "There were many shells, and it caught fire," UN spokesman Timor Goksel said. 'People were burning inside the building and it took a long time to convince the Israelis to stop firing," he said. "My white rubber shoes have turned red from the blood," said Hassan Seklawi, a Lebanese UN liaison officer

corpses were strewn about. Four Fijian soldiers were also

Until yesterday, 59 Lebanese civilians had been reported killed in the Israeli offensive. The slaughter in Qana

came on the eighth day of Is-rael's Grapes of Wrath cam-paign against Hizbullah guer-rillas. Earlier in the day its warplanes destroyed a block of flats near the market town of Nabatiyeh, killing 11 people, including the wife of a

pilgrimage to Mecca and his seven children. One was a

four-day-old baby girl.
Israeli leaders said their
forces would continue hitting
Hizbullah targets until the
Iranian-backed militia stopped launching Katyusha missiles into northern Israel Hizbullah, which said it is al most totally unscathed by the Israeli offensive, fired more salves during the day.

Najla Abu Jahja is a Re correspondent

Lebenon crisis, page 6;



MALKED INTO D0023

THE MAGNIFICENT NEW NOVEL FROM THE BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA

poised to begin live radio and television broadcasts to Saudi Arabia from London within a fortnight it emerged yesterday, just as the Government's climbdown over the deporta-tion of Mohammed al-Mas'ari appeared to have defused the crisis in British-Saudi

Mr al-Mas'arl was told by a senior Home Office official that he would be allowed to live in Britain and campaign against the Saudi regime for at least four years. Last month, the Government's attempt to expel him to the

tiny Carribean island of Dom-inica was overruled by the Chief Immigration Appeals Adjudicator. right hand man, Sa'ad Faqih, yesterday unvelled a £150,000 home-made studio and bat-tary of hi-tech broadcasting

Saudi crisis looms despite Mas'ari climbdown

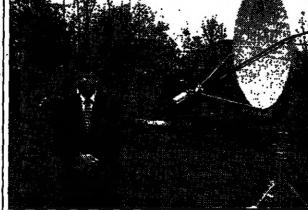
Adjudicator.
The decision to give the Islamist dissident full rights to travel and have his family live with him in Britain — which goes far beyond nor-mal "exceptional leave" con-ditions — means Mr al-Mas'ari has been granted political asylum in all but name, immigration experts said last night.

appeared to accept that the Government had made sufficient efforts to meet their demands for action against their critics in London. But Mr al-Mas'ari's rival Islamist dissident and former

equipment in the north London suburbs which looks cer-tain to reignite the Saudi

royal family's rage.
His austers semi-detached house is to broadcast weekly anti-Saudi satellite propaganda to the oil-rich kingdom from the beginning of next month. Up to a million Saudis are estimated to have access The Saudi authorities to satellite television.

and other Middle Eastern political exiles were planning to make sumizint broadcasts from Britain led the Government to close a legal loophol



Turn to page 2, column 8 Sa'ad Faoth and the satellite dish to focus dissident's attacks

### Inside

Mohammed al-Mas'ari

The security forces believe the bomb that exploded in London on Wednesday night was part of an IRA strategy leading

**World News** The US government is still a long way from convicting the man all America blames for the

Manufacturing .... growth is at its lowest level for ... more than two years, according to Chamber of Commerce

weakened when the county sides denied him the selectors he wanted.

Sport

Ray litingworth's

grasp on power in

English cricket was

Latthew Engel 4/5;

Comment and Letters 8;

Oklahoma bombing a year ago.

Obituaries 10

Radio 16; TV 16

#### Sketch

### The Tory rock candy mountain



OU can tell how desperate the

Conservatives are from the first edition of their new tabloid paper. It's called Look!, and has a bright, yet somewhat manic feel, like a cross between Hello! and Rubber Wear Monthly.

One of the great saloon bar myths is that they once printed a newspaper which contained only good news, but nobody bought it.

Look! is crammed to the gunwales with good news, and nobody at all will buy it, because Tory Central Office is giving it away. Some of the headlines will

give you a flavour of its relentless good cheer. "Tax bohanza for millions", "Good news Britain, as seen by an admiring world" (apparently all foreigners are united in awe of our achievements); Britain poised to lead the way in a new wave of super technology"; and "We're now

a nation of happy shoppers". We can even thank the Government for the succes the dancer Darcey Bussell ("Schools minister Cheryl Gillan has unveiled a plan to allow 200 more children . . . to attend famous schools like the Royal Ballet") and there is a winsome picture of Cheryl on page 5. Once she was known only as the greasiest sycophant at Westminster. now she is the cause of our

national artistic renaissance There's no mention of crime (except for its abolition: "Howard's get-tough stance calls time on repeat offenders"), or the recent byelection, or poverty, or repossessions, or Black Wednesday, or the beef crisis. It depicts a Britain as realistic as the Big Rock Candy

John Major was in Ukraine, so instead of the normal Prime Minister's Questions we had Heseltine versus Prescott. Mr Prescott began by pointing out that in 1990 the Deputy Prime Minister's analysis had been that the only way of restoring Conservative fortunes was to lump Prime Minister Thatcher, What was his analysis now?

This was a reference to Brian Mawhinney's petulant on Wednesday, when he had been asked a similar question on Radio 4. He replied: "It is that kind of smeary question by Today programme presenters which so annoy people who listen to this programme up and down the

I am sure Dr Mawhinney meets a lot of people who think that way, though few of the rest of us do. The reason is that he spends his time talking to loyal members of

Conservative associations.

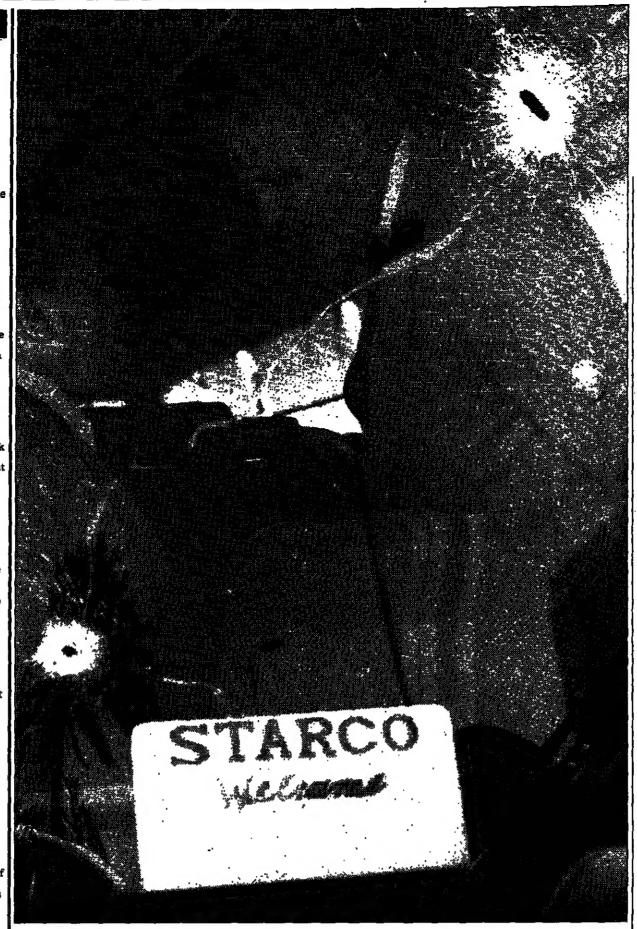
But loyal Tories are, these days, a tiny fringe group in society, a collection of wildeyed cranks who gather together to discuss their

It's as if the chairman of the British Trainspotters' Guild were to rave: "As I travel round the country I find there is on overwhelming demand for comfy armchairs and free mini-bars on station platforms. When will politicians listen to the voice

of the people?" Mr Heseltine said that the bad news for the middleclasses was that John Prescott had joined them. Mr Prescott replied that the Daily Telegraph, "the bible of the middle classes", had said yesterday that this Government was a disaster.

Mr Heseltine pointed out that the same article suggested a Labour government would be infinitely worse, "Ah, so you accept it then?" shouted some sophists on the Labour side, but their point was lost in the

shouting. But it could make a headline for the next edition of Look! "Labour government would be even worse than this lot — official!" has the right breezy, bonkers flavour.



Police examine the coach which was due to take tourists to Alexandria

## **Tourists** massacred in Cairo

Ben Faulics and Emad Mekay in Cairo

OUR gunmen shot dead 17 mostly elderly Greek tourists and an Egyptian man at a Cairo hotel yesterday. Fifteen other tourists were wounded, three critically, in the bloodiest attack in Egypt since trouble flared between the govern-ment and militant Islamists. So far no one has claimed

responsibility, but the attack is widely believed to have been carried out by a Muslim militant group. The Greek tourists were on

an Easter visit of the Holy Land sites and had arrived from Jerusalem. They had just finished breakfast and were about to board a bus to Alexandria, a patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox Church.

the Greek Orthodox Church, when the massacre began. According to eyewitnesses, four men drew up in a white van. stepped out — three with machine-guns, one with a pistol — and fired on the party as they stood outside the foyer of the Europa Hotel on the road to the pyramids. to the pyramids.

"I heard bubububum, four shots in the first burst, then it snots in the first durst, then it started again, a longer burst, and I saw women falling like flies, covered in blood," said Sotirios Grykis, a Greek tour-ist who saw the scene from a

first-floor balcony. Harry Poulianas, a 23-year-old Greek Australian, was standing just behind a group of mostly elderly women near the coach. "It took six or seven shots before I realised what was going on. I turned and ran inside as people around me were being hit, in-

"The gunfire went on al-most continuously for about

out there were people lying dead outside the hotel and people injured on the floor crying and screaming."

A Greek tour guide said the coach acted as a shield "otherwise there would be many more dead". He said vistors leaving the hotel res-taurant, unaware of the attack, caused chaos as those near the coach turned to run. A hotel employee said: "The attackers acted in cold blood.

They took their time and even reloaded their guns because there were no police around."
After the attack, the gunmen drove off on a side road
towards the working-class

district of Talbiya. None of the hotel's six secu-rity guards was armed and several months ago the inte-rior ministry had withdrawn a police paired which had

been posted in the area to pro-tect tourists. Heavy traffic delayed ambulances for up to 45 minutes.

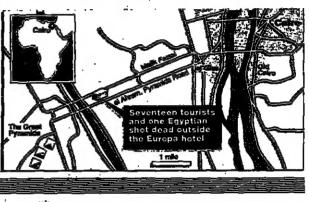
Passers-by and hotel staff belped the injured into taxis and Egyptians in private cars drove some to hospital.
An interior ministry state

An interior ministry statement blamed the attack on a group of terrorists.

The attack was the first in Egypt for five months and the first in Cairo for more than a year. Many suspect the Gama'a al-Islamiya group, which has tried to damage the economy by targeting tourists. It has repeatedly warned tourists not to visit Egypt.

A Greek tour leader, with another group, accused the Egyptian authorities of laxity in protecting tourists. "We just arrived from the Old City in Jerusalem and the soldiers

in Jerusalem and the soldiers are all over the place there."



### First night

### The exhilaration of the grim reaper Ketth Harper Transport Edit

Michael Billington

Donmar Warehouse

OU don't have to share Reckett's deterministic vision of the universe to find Endgame a moving play: or so it seemed watching Katie Mutchell's excellent new production, which brings out both the sardonic humour and authentic compassion behind Beckett's vision of mankind's

terminal stages. We seem, in Rac Smith's desimi, to be in a mouldering cellar illuminated by two ime-encrusted windows Outside lies a world of death. Inside the room the blind, imperious Hamm sits in a wheel-Clov, scuttles about obeying

Each depends fractiously on the other. Hamm alone knows the combination of the larder while Clov is his master's eyes and last remnant of human contact. The only other survivors are Hamm's legless parents, Nagg and Nell, who squat in upstage dustbins and die during the play. You can see the play in

many ways: as an analysis of the power-complex, as an exploration of Beckett's own symbol of the plight of the artist struggling to make sense of a meaningless universe. Hamm himself is a storyteller, and it is fascinating

attention to the tacit conspir-

acy of theatre and to the dramatist's attempt, in a catastrophic situation, to keep

ennui at bay. But the whole point of Mitchell's production is that recognisable human impulse survive even in a terminal situation: she gives us characters rather than abstractions Alun Armstrong's Hamm may be a crippled tyrant, but there is something deeply moving about his simultaneous craving for death and for residual human contact; he variously begs Clov to kill him and kiss him, as if his ultimate terror is that of total solitude.

There is also a wild humou about Stephen Dillane's hump-backed, limping Clov He is a morose Caliban to this toppled Prospero, dragging a ladder across the stage to grat on his master's nerves, and yet someone who cannot quite forfeit his dependency. Even Nagg and Nell, played

by Harry Jones and Eileen Nicholas, as a pair of withered Scots elders, have a senile dependence: he craves an audience for his stories just as she requires a vehicle for her

And in this perhaps lies the real significance of this production. It implies that behind Beckett's vision of a dying, depopulated world there is still a need for human connection and a desire to shape our experience into narratives. That is why I find Endgame exhilarating rather than depressing. Even as the world ends, Beckett implies, we still harbouran inextinguishable hunger both for art and for other people.

This review appeared in later

### Labour blames dirty tricks for car tax leak Saudi crisis

ABOUR Party leaders complained last night of la dirty tricks campaign to discredit them after revela tions in yesterday's Guardian that a Blair government would seek to curb the use of mpany cars.

At first party sources confirmed the existence of the document containing the idea, one of a number being considered by the transport team, but said there had so far been "no political input". Later it was said that the document did not exist. Finally sources said it was a document with an input from the pressure group. Transport things, when I took over the

started to suggest that senior party members could have been responsible. Later last night. Conservative Central Office was put forward as the likely culprit.

The document said many company cars were perks as part of salary packages rather than given according to need. It proposed taxing the full value of free fuel and penalties for those who cannot prove the cars have been used or business

Labour's shadow transport secretary, Clare Short, said:

2000, which had been transport portfolio last year, cars differently for laisure and Parham managing director of the British subsidiary.

In the search to find the started from scratch. I am The final draft of Labour's of Peugeot, said that an innow on draft seven of proposals will go to the par-Labour's transport policy ty's joint policy committee document."

> public transport through pub-lic consensus. "There are problems with cars, and that includes company cars, and we will have some words to say about incentives to make people think about alterna-tive methods of transport, but

we are not going to give any firm, punitive commitments."

She added: "We want to persuade the British people to behave more like our European have more like our European heighbours — using their if the plans went ahead. Rich-

Ms Short said the document | the next two weeks and then would tackle the problem of on to the party's policy forum urban congestion and the on May 18, where amendneed to enhance the use of ments could be proposed. Ms ments could be proposed. Ms Short said the issues would then be debated publicly. Steve Norris, the Transport Minister, commented yeater-day: "Red-faced Labour is now trying to shift into

tax-raising and anti-car cars which are perk cars," he party." He said that three mil-

crease in taxes would obviously be unfair to users of business cars. Pointing out that fleet sales

were keeping the motor in-dustry affoat in a difficult market, Mr Parham said companies were replacing vehi-cles after three years of difficult economic conditions. Company cars were taxed at a level that gave no advantage to the user over a car bought reverse on its plans to tax retail. A company car was a company cars. The document tool of the job. There are shows Labour for what it is: a only a small proportion of

### looms despite Mas'ari

continued from page I last month which allowed broadcasts to non-European states without a licence.

But Dr al-Fagih, a top laproscopic surgeon from Riyadh — whose own applica-tion for political asylum has yet to be heard — said yesterday that his group had made arrangements to keep their radio and television channels entirely within the letter of British law.

The doctor, surrounded by a group of young "brothers" bent over mixing consoles revealed he had uncovered new loopholes which he hoped would cover the backs of the British authorities. We like our hosts and we don't want to embarrass them. But the trick with Saudi Arabia is breaking the

information barrier."

He plans to begin with weekly radio broadcasts, followed by television broadcasts a month or so later. They will be carried via the Internet to an unnamed European country, from where they will be broadcast via satellite to Saudi Arabia at a cost of around \$200,000 a year. Dr al-Faqih's new organisa-tion, the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia, has a satellite dish in the garden for

direct broadcasts as well, and another three fallback options — such as the use of a dedicated BT line — to spirit their video signals to the overseas transmitter.

The sensitivity of the Saudi regime to critical satellite broadcasts was illustrated by the recent closure of the BBC's

Arabic television service.

## Brown offers new hope for school failures

REVIEW of the "elitist" Afinancing of Britain's traditional system of post-16 education is being anpost-16 education is being an nounced by Labour tonight in an effort to make equality of opportunity a reality for millions of people who fail at school but want a second chance later in life.

it could lead to a range of new loan options for students. including grants instead of loans for those prepared to work in the public services, and a better deal for youngeeking non-vocational qualifications (NVQs) who sometimes get no student grant or other help.

At the heart of Labour's proposed Individual Learning Account will be the concept — to be outlined by the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown – that everyone beyond the offi-cial school leaving age will become entitled to a defined amount of financial support from the state at some stage

of their careers.

Though the sensitive question of the charitable status of private schools will not be reopened, Mr Brown and the shadow education secretary, David Blurkett, will examine the "unfair system of tax reliefs" which boost educa-tional trust funds for some students. This is part of their search for more effective funding that reflects a less elitist system.

Mr Brown will make an attack on umair and restric-tive access to higher educa-tion — what he derides as the one strike and you're out' approach to school drop-outs in a speech intended to reassure potential voters that New Labour remains committed to equality of opportunity. He will unveil the plans in the John Smith Memorial Lecture, at Edinburgh Uni-

versity, as proposals for in-clusion in the next Labour Other points in the lecture will range from access to employment — for women and the long-term unemployed — to wider access to cultural the long-term unemployed — nity, Mr Brown and Mr Blunto wider access to cultural and democratic opportunities.

"Our view of society is one where both the economy and review into the way education of professional families with 80 per cent of those born to the unskilled.

The shadow chancellor's speech comes days after Robin Cook, shadow foreign secretary, made what some colleagues regarded as an "Old Labour" appeal to uphold party values at the Scottish TUC.

The Brown speech will specifically reject "equality of outcome" — long advocated others — as unrealistic.

by Roy Hattersley among To explore options for expanding educational opportu-

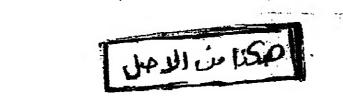
the wider society flourish tion for the over-16s is funded through a widespread extension of opportunity," he said by the state at all.

In the case of NVQs, a student aged between 16 and 18 does not get automatic help with tuition fees. Every full-

time university student does get funding. "The question is not why 35 per cent of young people now go into higher education, but why 65 per cent do not," Mr Brown will say after citing new data suggesting that children of unskilled manual workers have no better chance of getting higher edu cation now than in 1914.

Canon fax can cross the world

In a matter of seconds, the Canon Bl00 can send a fax to any other fax machine





to lin









### Happiness is a place in the top 100 TV commercials

Hamlet, Volkswagen, and the Guardian make it on to definitive list of all-time great advertisements, reports Andrew Culf

portunity to pop out and put the kettle on; for others they are a better source of entertainment than the programmes they

Now creative directors at 20 of the country's top advertis-ing agencies have assembled the definitive list of the top 100 television commercials of

The long-lasting impact of many campaigns is unargu-able: the on-off teasing sags of Nescafe's Gold Blend couple spawned almost as many newspaper column inches as a television soap, while char-acters such as Campari's Luton airport girl Lorraine Chase, Yellow Pages' fly fish-erman JR Hartley, and the PG Tips chimps became national institutions.

But none of these advertise ments have been selected for the new video from the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, which is a celebration | D VW B of the television commercial

as an art form. The video, Now That's What I Call Advertising, does however include Leonard Rossiter's classic double act with Joan Collins for Cinzano Bianco, the Martians which featured in Cadbury's adver-tisement for Smash, and Maureen Lipman as Beattle in including its 1963 commercial

### Selling lines

Top five TV advertisers Number of commercials in the top 100: □ Volkswagen - 9 □ Levi Jeans — 6 ☐ Heineken Lager — 5
☐ Holsten Pils — 5
☐ John Smith Bitter — 3

Ten favourite adverts mentions: ☐ Carling Black Label: Dambusters (1990)

☐ The Guardian: Skinhead

(1989) Hamlet Cigars: Photo booth (1986) ☐ Heineken Lager: Words-

worth spoof (1982)

Lego: Kipper (1975)

Levi Jeans 501: Launderette (1985) ☐ Levi Jeans 501: Bathtub ☐ Tango: You've been Tan-

go'd (1991) (1963)VW Changes: Paula Hamilton (1987)

British Telecom's "Ology"

The most successful adver-tiser was Volkswagen which secured nine of the 100 slots.

O'Shea, who also participated, said: "It was a reminder how advertising is like a living history. It is useful to take the occasional snapshot." His selection had come

from advertisements with an instant recall factor, includ-ing the Chas and Dave song Gercha for Courage bitter, and the robots building the Fiat Strada to the accompanidriver managed to get to work to drive the snowplough.

Also featured is the 1987 VW Changes advert, in which Paula Hamilton sulkily dis-carded almost everything ment of Figure.

The essential ingradients

stand the test of time included humour and emotion. They can be impressive pieces of film-making, using incredibly advanced tech-

niques and many could be classified as semi-art." Surprising omissions according to Simon Law, communications planner with K Advertising, who compiled the results, included Bodding-ton's Cream of Manchester paigns were nominated: the balding man struggling un-successfully to get his picture taken in the passport photo booth and the frustrated

and Nike's world football campaign.
The video does not rank the advertisements in order of merit, but the findings are markedly different from a recent poll for the trade maga-

paign in which a business, man appeared about to be at-tacked by a skinbead, but was zine Campaign.
This showed the public most liked Gary Lineker's ap pearances for Walker's crist and Harry, the child super-market trolley star of

Safeway's campaign.
Mr O'Shea commented: "We become purists — creative directors choose what they arrogantly term as good strong ideas. It is great to sit there with the video for 1% hours and lumuriate in good ads."









Call for audit over Clarke's £32bn deficit Britain tells EU that it does not want to use £20m on offer for projects to fight poverty and racism

for the VW Beetle, which

showed how the anowplough

house keys, ring, pearls and fur coat — but decided

against dropping her car keys down the drain.

Six advertisements for Levi

Jeans made the top 100, including the launderette strip-tease, and the man who got into the bath to shrink his

Two of Hamlet's cigar cam-

golfer who found himself trapped in the bunker. The Guardian's 1989 cam

in fact being saved from being

struck by falling masonry, also featured strongly. The creative directors, who

were each asked for 10 choices, included Tony Cox of

BMP DDB Needham, Trevo

Beattle of TBWA. Keith Courtney of K Advertising.

and Andrew Cracknell of AP

Chris O'Shea, joint creative

director of Banks Hoggins

mics Editor

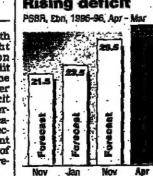
a are desir 🍇

HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, last night spurned Opposition calls for an independent audit of the Treasury's books in the run-up to the Budget after news of a £32 billion deficit. last year. The £3 billion overshoot on November's Trea-sury forecast intensified spec-niation that the Government will have to ignore the state of its finances to deliver preelection tax cuts.

Labour is keen to avoid a

re-run of the 1992 election when tax cuts were justified by wildly optimistic govern-ment forecasts. The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, said an outside inquiry was needed "so that the Conservative Party can never mislead the people of this country about tax and borrowing However, Mr Clarke said be

would only cut taxes in November's Budget if it proved to be affordable. "It would be wholly wrong to attempt to buy the next election by irresponsible tax cuts, and we have no intention of doing



ished scope for a big pre-elec-tion givesway was underlined yesterday by news of a 29.6 billion deficit for March. the final month of the 1995/96 financial year. This took the financial year. This took the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement — the gap between government spending and income — to £22.2 billion more than £3 billion higher than Mr Clarke's forecast in the last Budget and almost 50 per cent higher than his original forecast of £21.5 billion made in November 1994. made in November 1994. The Chancellor insisted next year's borrowing requirement would be below

230 billion, adding: "It is quite clear the borrowing require-Rising deficit ment in this country is on a downward path towards balance in the medium term. which is the foundation of our

Lintas.

The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said the issue of tax lay at the heart of the crisis of public

Writing in today's Guardian, he attacked Labour's lack of specific pledges on tax, adding. "We are determined to be clear about what we want and how we pay for it — even if that means, for instance, having to put a peany on income tax for education. The received wisdom is that this hunch that people want the truth about tax more than they want reassuring prom-ises they can't believe in." City analysis believe Mr Clarke's forecast of a 222.5 billion PSBR for the 1996/97 financial year is also unlikely to be met, but expect him to reduce taxes anyway.

"With hindsight we can question the validity of the tax cuts that have just been implemented and can ask whether there is scope for tax cuts in this year's Budget," said Geoffrey Dicks, chief Notebook, page 11

economist with NatWest mar-kets. "With the PSBR still running at 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product on our forecast of £26.7 billion, the obvious answer is no. Nevertheless, we are assum-ing tax cuts of about £3 billion

in November."
The PSBR peaked at \$245.4 billion in 1993/94, and fell to £35.9 billion in 1994/95. Excluding privatisation receipts
which are drying up—the
fall has been sharper, from
£50 billion in 1993/94 to 234.6 billion in 1995/96. The Treasury is undertak-

ing an investigation into why forecasts for the PSBR have been too optimistic in recent years. Tight control has been kept of spending, but the Chancellor's predictions have been undermined by weak tax revenues. Of the £8.2 billion overshoot since the 1995 Budget. £1.25 billion was accounted for by lower than an ticipated corporation tax receipts, with income tax and VAT both about £750 million ower than forecast.

pact of the growth in part-time work, the size of the hid-den economy and the extent of company tax avoidance.

**Taking sides** 

Arguments for not cutting taxes: We can't afford it. Britatn is already borrowing to finance spending.

☐ The November Budget put the 1995/6 PSBR at £29 billion — the actual figure

was £32.4 billion. was 25.2.4 inhou.

The PSBR will stay high
because part-time work is
hitting income tax, job insecurity is cutting VAT by depressing consumer spending and firms are avoiding corporation tax.

| Public expenditure
brakes will come off ahead

of a general election.

□ Tax cuts now would be rescinded after polling day. Arguments for cutting toxes: □ We can afford it. The PSBR is on a firm down-

ward trend. We need only to cut the budget deficit. Economic growth will do that anyway.
 Cutting taxes increases tax revenues by encouraging people to work barder and making tax avoidance less attractive.

Public spending is still

far too high and can be cut.

O Votes, votes, votes.

John Palmer and Stephen Bates

pean Union money in Britain to combat racism despite support an EU summit decla-ration outlawing racism and

Eric Forth, says in a letter to the European social affairs commissioner. Padraig Flynn, that £20 million intended as Britain's share of a proposed extension to an EU programma to tackle poverty and racism would be better

would not be accepted. over two years from 1997, is for specific projects, includ-ing schemes to tackle dis-crimination and to help

Mr Forth protests in his let-ter that the commission should "take account of sensitivities in the UK about the

THE Government is trying to block the use of Euro tenophobia.

The employment minister.

But the European Commis-sion indicated last night that the Government's suggestion The money, due to be spent

tackling racism and zenophobia".

enophobia".

Labour Party spokesperson
He goes on to express his on regional affairs in the Letters, page 8

sion to measures against rac-

ism in Horizon - a programme which funds job training and job creation in the 15 member states.
"It seems not only unneces sary, but also provocative to

Insist that all countries should sign up to guidelines with explicit references to the combating of racism and xe-nophobia." Mr Forth declares. He also calls on Mr Flynn and the commission to remove these references". The leak of Mr Forth's letter to the commission triggered a political row yester-day in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Labour and other leftwing MBPs expressed alarm that the British government ap-peared to be reluctant to im-plement measures to tackle

poverty and racism.

After hesitating for some months, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, agreed earlier this year to support action by the EU to deal with racism and xenophobia, as called for by successive summits of EU leaders in the past

Arlene McCarthy, the

yesterday: "It is Eric Forth's letter which is provocative. He should apologise immedi-ately and withdraw his objec-tions to the European Comfor practical projects to combat racism. There is a surging tide of racism in Europe which urgently needs to be stemmed. This cannot be done just by fine words, it needs practical projects in

local communities."
This is the second time in a year that the Government has refused to take EC money to deal with unemployment.

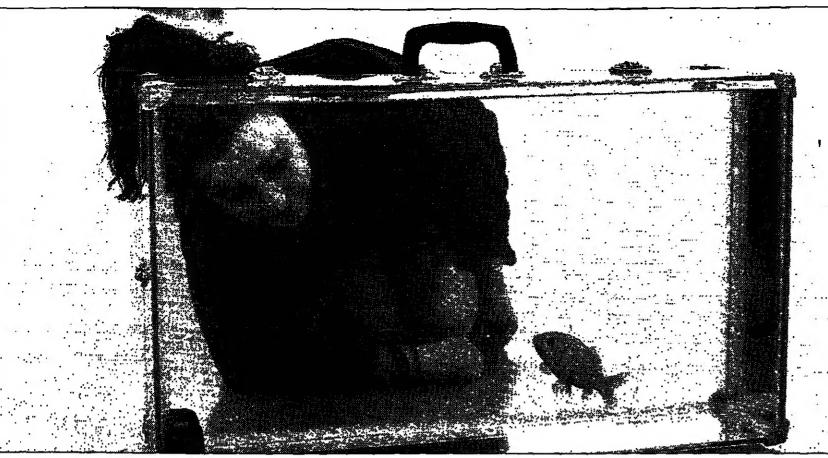
Ms McCarthy said that Britain still had not spent some
270 million made available by Brussels to retrain workers who faced redundancy be-cause of technological or economic developments.

Yesterday the commission would not comment directly but one official said that the commission wanted to extend funding for training and job creation, which was due to run out in 1997, for a further two years. The extended fund could be spent on new initia-tives, including one designed for victims of social and

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David Palliste

told him: "The criminal jus-tice system and the Home Sec-retary in this country are

slime and so are you."
The incident happened on a

person." In 1993, Diagle was sen

tenced to three years in prison

for attempting to rape a 25-year-old lawyer he had taken

to a Highland ball in London. He admitted he had been

very tired and emotional."

In court yesterday, Sgt

Diggle fined £75

### Fish eyes punters from a suitcase. But is it really art?

Martyn Halsall

At VAUGHAN thought the goldfish was rather enjoying the art show. people slouched in front of the telly," he said. "It looks like a very happy fish to me." Maureen Barrett-Spring, an

art student in the sixtles when controversy meant Bridget Riley's eye-torturing geometrics, saw the goldfish as victim of a "cold and pre-tentious" exhibition. "I don't like living exhibits; it makes

me very cross," she said.
Other visitors had gone further: the RSPCA confirmed a number of complaints. The animal charity concluded that the fish was "not necessity the protection of the prote sarily happy [but] is not in a cruel situation," said spokes-woman Sue Atkinson.

The goldfish was yesterday mayailable for comment, trawling the inside of a glass suitcase on the floor of the the goldfish was rather enjoying the art show.

"It's just looking at a lot of culture vultures as opposed to maja and Dali's wilting maja and Dali's wilting to make the fich was gulning. watches, the fish was gulping in some eye-catching publicity.
Its sealed tank stood across the gallery from four other ley. They were exhibited by James Chinneck, one of 33 successful entrants from more than 1,600 submissions for this year's New Contem-

for this year's new Contemporaries exhibition.

Ms Barrett-Spring was concerned that the gallery was ignoring the lessons of history. "In Victorian times they had conversation pieces, but now they call them art," she said. "I think it's the same with this; it's not art, it's a conversation piece."

Police blame professional

agitators for

**Newbury bill** 

## Holloway staff criticised over woman prisoner's suicide

Inquest finds gross failure to provide supervision

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

GROSS failure by prison staff to provide basic supervision to a woman classed by police as an excep-tional suicide risk contrib-uted directly to her death, a coroner's inquest ruled yesterday.
The jury at the City of Lon-

don coroner's court returned the unusual verdict of "sul-cide contributed to by ne-glect" in the case of Claire Bosley, of Basingstoke, Hampshire. The verdict provided fur-

ther evidence that there was a breakdown in the management of Britain's main woman's prison Holloway. It prompted demands for an immediate review of the way

suicidal inmates and an in-

ry wny omicial gub had not been followed. Mrs Bosley, aged 34, died within 90 minutes of arriving at the north London prison

at their home. Her death was described as

particulary desperate — she choked herself with toilet tis-"This woman disappeared without a trace for 15 hours and no one bothered to ook for her," said Tim Owen. her family's barrister.

came one week before the Chief Inspector of Prisons walked out of the jail in disgust at the conditions there.

The jury's unanimous decision followed a warning by the coroner, Paul Matthews, that they could only return a

sure it was directly connected with the suicide. "In the context of this case, we are talking about the supervision of a person thought to be a suicide risk and a gross failure to provide medical attention," the coro-

"neglect" verdict if they were

The inquest had heard that Mrs Bosley had been remanded to Holloway after a telephone warning from the police that she was a suicide risk and accompanied by an exceptional risk form issued by Hampshire Police.

the Prison Service deals with number of times, adding: "Whilst in detention Mrs Bos ley has attempted to commit suicide by choking herself after attempting to commit with tissues and banging her plementation of suit suicide three times while in head against walls and as vention at Holloway."

police custody after stabbing | such required constant super-to death her husband. Barry. | vision." Pauline Martindale, the

senior officer on duty at Holloway reception on Mrs Bosley's arrival, said she was short staffed. Nearly half the prisoners who arrive at Holloway have exceptional risk forms attached to their files, she said, Miss Martindale, who is Her death on November 25

part of the suicide awareness training team at Holloway, had questioned Mrs Bosley and decided she "was not in crisis". She put her in a hold-ing area on her own while two disruptive prisoners were dealt with. Her body was

found 90 minutes later. After the verdict, a Prison Service statement said an internal investigation at Holloway had already recommended changes: "We will make sure that any lessons that can be learnt from this distressing incident are learnt, to help prevent a similar tragedy."

But Deborah Coles, director

of Inquest, which helps the families of those who die in showed there had been a catalogue of neglect and incompeby Hampshire Police. tence by prison staff. "If they
It stated that she had had followed the Prison Ser-Claire's death would not have happened. The Chief Inspector of Prisons should urgently review the training and implementation of suicide pre-

Brother tells of the 'morbid jealousy' that led to murder

CLAIRE Bosley, 34, and her chusband, Barry, by all accounts had a happy, loving marriage, at least until a year ago, writes Alan Travis.

The couple, who married in 1981 when Mrs Bosley was 20, lived in Basingstoke, Hampshire. They had a son, Thomas, now aged 9.

ems. Mrs Bosley had had two

ectopic pregnancies, one seven years ago and the other last May, which meant she was unable to have any more children. Mr Bosley had had several kidney transplants. But as her brother, David

Rummins, told the inquest. Mrs Bosley, soon after leaving hospital in May, developed "a morbid jealousy" that her husband was having an affair with the woman next The couple started to have

rows, about her suspicions and about money. Despite atto allay Mrs Bosley's fears, she began to threaten to commit suicide. "I guess that there was a time bomb within her," Mr

asked by prison officers if she wanted to take her own life, she had replied: "I did last week, but I am OK now."



Claire Bosley: had 'happy

last year when she stabbed her husband to death. The next day while at New bury police station she tried to choke herself with tissues

but constant police supervision prevented her. After being transferred to Basingstoke police station she tried again by hitting her head against a wall, and again by choking herself. At one point she told a WPC: "I am a

somebody." repeated warnings he was ar-At Holloway, when was rested and handcuffed. In his defence, Diggle said he had had four or five glasses of wine with his lunch and was on his way to the railway .



Sunday afternoon last No-vember in the town's red light district. Diggle approached two policemen who were in-terviewing a man and two women, one a prostitute. Told station when he saw the to go home, he was alleged to have asked: "Do you know who I am? I'm a famous trouble, and I had not seen adies in trouble with police before, I must go over and tell them to see a solicitor as soon

"The sergeant also said I was a clown," said Diggle, denied telling them he was a famous person.

He said the reference to remarks made two days before by Judge Stephen Tumim

reduced to two years on appeal and he served one. He was suspended as a solicitor



Angus Diggle: court told he

a minority could be cast as professional agitators," Chief vomen being interviewed.
"I thought if they were in as they could.

slime was prompted by Campbell said Diggle had been "argumentative and

trates being "slimy". Diggle's sentence was and has since not reapplied.

### POLICE and road protest-ers yesterday clashed over allegations that profes-sional demonstrators had driven the cost of policing the Newbury bypass to over \$3.6 million, and that the police had acted partially on behalf of the Government. In the first public post mor-tem since the bypass route was cleared earlier this month, senior police officers showed videos of protesters wielding knives against bal-liffs and mounted a display of weapons police claimed to

more damage to the environ-ment than the road builders at certain sites and of slashing two tyres on one police vehicle. There had been 770 arrests, the majority for alleged minor offences, Mr Pollard

have found on the site.

"The vast majority have been well meaning people

with a social conscience, but

Inspector Charles Poliard

been arrested four times. But the protesters accused the police of telling only one sistently ignored our com-plaints," said one protester in Newbury yesterday. 'It was blindingly obvious that there

us. It seemed they could not see anything."

A Friends of the Earth spokesman said: "We have documentary evidence of what seems like brutality against some of the protes ers. We are dismayed that high-level police officers seemed to be trying to manip-ulate public opinion against

peaceful protest." We are aware of accusations against security guards and others," Mr Pollard said. We are investigating."

The police also showed off aweapons haul, including smoke canisters, sharpened stakes and metal spikes. Thames Valley police have so far spent £2.6 million on the protest, and Hampshire

police a further £1 million. Police costs are expected to mount to more than £12 million by the time the bypass is A Highways Agency offi-cial said last night that last summer's action by protesters on the route of the M65 extension in Lancashire had cost up to £2.5 million.

### Old Etonian sues lawyers on £50m will

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

N Old Etonian took Britain's biggest firm of solicitors to the High Court vesterday, alleging it was negligent in not ensuring his multi-mulionaire great uncle finalised his will before his death.

Dominic Trusted, aged 22, is suing Clifford Chance, the second biggest law firm, for up to £1 million for not making sure Eric Hopton. who was worth £50 million, executed a new will before he died childless of heart failure in January 1901. Mr Trusted, a student at

Edinburgh university, has legal and for the case, al-though he and his brother are

for aid because he has no ab-

from the trust.

Mr Hopton owned the Belgravia Property Company whose assets included some of central London's prime res idential property. Under the terms of his existing will. drawn up in December 1984. Mr Trusted was to receive just £50,000, while the balance

as part of a family arrange-ment after the death. If he loses, the case could cost the taxpayer up to £250,000. He is thought to be eligible

of the estate, after legacies, was to go to Mr Hopton's nephews. Christopher and

lion discretionary trust set up | now with another central | and Mr Hopton was quite | any letters which might

solute right to demand money

Mr Trusted, of Belgravia. central London, is also suing one of Clifford Chance's forLondon firm, Withers. His counsel, David Oliver

QC. told Mr Justice Jonathan Parker that Mr Hopton, who was in very poor health in 1990 after a major heart attack, had expressed a desire to change his will since March that year. A series of drafts of a new will and for a number of family settlements, which would have benefited Mr Trusted among others, were drawn up but were not executed when Mr Hopton died. Mr Trusted was suing for the difference between what he actually received and

what, he claims, he would have received under the new will.
Mr Oliver said that Mr Bowyer went on a three-month sabbatical from

happy to leave the amendments until his return After he returned, Mr Bow-

yer wrote to George Staple, then a partner with the firm and now director of the Sericould not think of any will, in bis 22 years' experience, which was so important to get right and could create such

problems if they got it wrong. By the beginning of Decem ber, Mr Bowyer had begun "putting pen to paper" on the new will and a second draft had been sent to Mr Hopton ing to go through the amendments when his client returned to London from

Devon on January 5.
On January 2. Mr Bowyer was advised by Christopher

worry him but to wait for the meeting. But the next day, Mr Hopton was admitted to hospital in London, where he died 10 days later. The firm and Mr Bowyer

deny acting in breach of duty, and say the instructions they received were not sufficient to enable the will to be comed more quickly. Mr Oliver said that the firm was negligent, certainly as from January 2, when it

earned that Mr Hopton had fallen ill again.
Michael Briggs, QC for Clifford Chance, said Mr Trusted
would not have benefited from the family settlemen under the new will. A sepa rate £300,000 trust was to have been set up for him and his brother. The hearing was ad-

### Parents who pacify babies with dummies may nurture dummies

PARENTS who pacify bables with dummies are achieving peace and quiet at the expense of their children's intelligence, according to a study.

Researchers stumbled on a "strong association" beween dummy use and lower than average intelli-gence in adults during a study to determine whether breast feeding affected IQ. Although dummy use has been a long-running par-

enting conundrum, it is the first time such a link has been demonstrated. The researchers surmise that dummies may render

at Southampton university, tested almost 1,000 men and women born between 1920 and 1930 in Hertfordshire. Those who had sucked dummies typically scored four IQ points lower than those who had not.

Ms Gale, whose findings
were published in the Lan-

was the strongest predictor for lower intelligence."

## was wrong being done against

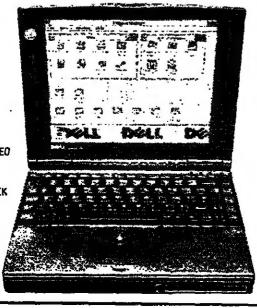
kept quiet with dummies may not interact sufficiently with their children Researchers Catherine Gale and Christopher Mar-tyn, of the Medical Re-search Council environnental epidemiology unit

cet yesterday, said the results were surprising. "Statistically, dummy use infants less receptive to No link was found be-outside stimuli, or that tween breast-feeding and parents whose babies are higher intelligence.

### beneficiaries under a 21 5 mil. | mer partners. David Bowyer, | August to November 1990, | Hopton not to send his uncle journed until Monday Best Buy Award. Best price yet. Best call now.

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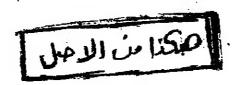
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Republicans attempt to prove they can strike at will, while former comrade discloses links with Catholic clergy

# Earl's Court bomb 'part of ceasefire plan'

### More minor blasts are expected

Duncan Campbell Alan Murray and Richard Norton-Taylor

believe the bomb that exploded in west London on Wednesday night was part of an IRA strategy leading to a ceasefire. The explosion was being interpreted differently by the Irish and United Kingdom governments.

dom governments.
John Major said during a visit to Prague that the peace process would continue regardless of such attacks. But the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said in Dublin that it was "another setback for those working for the

Police blan

profession

agitatorsto

Newburyh

for those working for the peace process".

The bomb, described by police as a "small, improvised device", exploded shortly before 10pm on Wednesday in The Boltons, Earl's Court, west London, following an imprecise coded call to the London bureau of Associated. Press. No one was injured and

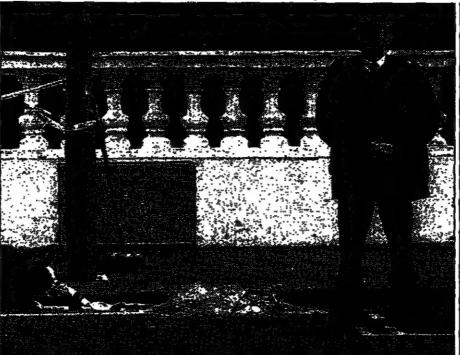
The security services had been anticipating a bomb attack of this nature. Their interpretation of the IRA's strategy in the lead-up to the election is that there would be a number of minor bombs to

near Canary Wharf on February 9, the IRA has preferred ary 9, the IRA has preferred the use of smaller devices to convey its message. The timing and the small size of the bomb in The Bolhons would be calculated by the IRA to exert political pressure without having the door firmly slammed on Gerry Adams.

Condemnation of the IRA Condemnation of the IRA from the Clinton administration and influential Irish

Americans has been sus tained since the Canary Wharf carnage. Risking loss of life again in another large explosion in or around Lon-don would almost certainly prevent Sinn Fein from par-ticipating in the all-party talks on June 10. The importance to the TRA

of continuing the mainland campaign is twofold: firstly it campaign is fwomen firstly it indicates that, despite the death of Ed O'Brien on the 171 bus in Aldwych in February, they have the capability to strike when they like; secondly, it allows them to call a crease fire which will be call a ceasefire which will be noticeable in the period leading up to the Northern Ire-land elections — if there were no bombs in the interim, the ceasefire would have little



Police cordon off the area after Wednesday's bomb

Sinn Fein's participation are a principally a renewed IRA in ceasefire and the decommissioning of weapons. Privately, however, neither the security services nor mainstream Unionists are much concerned about decommission-ing. It is mainly symbolic, an acknowledgement by the IRA that the war was over. Security sources believe

a consensus over a pre-elec-tion strategy but assume it will come out with a care-fully-worded ceasefire announcement. The IRA is also looking to see whether there is any movement on the issue of prisoners. There is a wide spread feeling of disillusion ment that the Government has made few concessions in this area. There is also a de-

They do not want to put their active service units at risk until they have ascertained exactly what went wrong with the Aldwych bomb. It is also suggested that the loss of O'Brien, a key figure

in the IRA's planned campaign in London, required the reinforcement of its Londonbased active service units

### Priests 'aided IRA gunmen and rejoiced at murders'

N IRA gunman who turned police informer has claimed that Catholic priests gave support to republican volunteers and sometimes rejoiced in the murders they carried out. Seen O'Callaghan, serving a double life sentence for two murders in the early 1970s, is held in a special unit for in-formers at Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland. He claims, in today's Spec-tator magazine, that after the killing of Special Branch offi-cer Peter Flanagan in Omagh cer reter Fianagan in Omagni in 1974 he and two colleagues sought refuge in a priest's house and were treated like heroes. "We were greeted joy-ously, showared with holy water and prayers and fed like kings," he wrote. As they are activative one of the wiestrie.

murdered officer as "an abominable man who abandoned his faith and sold his soul to the devil". The next day, he says, they left the house and the priests scouted ahead to make sure there were no security blocks

sat eating, one of the priests is said to have described the

on the road. O'Callaghan's claims, including "many similar inci-dents", outraged the Catholic



joyously, and showered with holy water and prayers'

'We were greeted

Police informer Sean O'Callaghan

and Information Office in Dublin said the church had sympathetic to the republican cause and to the activities of O'Callaghan turned in-

consistently denounced para-military violence. "Any en-couragement, help or support of IRA activities by an indi-vidual priest would rightly be regarded as totally reprehensible."

The spokesman said there would have been about six rejects in the Omech area of priests in the Omagh area at the time. "To present any of them as giving shelter to IRA gunmen following a murder could be seen as casting a slur on any or all of them, which would be most unjust." Despite the church's protes-

former in 1979 after becoming disillusioned with what he calls "the big lie" of Irish na-tionalism. He gave himself up to police in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in 1968 because he feared he would be murdered by his former comrades. In 1983 he warned the security forces that he had been cho-sen to carry out the assassination of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The attempt was aborted when, by secret

tations, it has been known for many years that a number of man for the Catholic Press 'Briton in chains' appeals to FO



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AUL Grecian, the British businessman fight-ing extradition from South Africa to the US on charges of arms dealing with Iraq, has twice been forced to wear leg chains and handcuits

Minister, to intervene to se-cure his release as he consid-dition resigned after he ment knowledge of the trade terday its consular staff ered his detention and the ex-admitted making his ruling had been withheld. The would reply to his letter.

His case, to be heard before

magistrates on Tuesday, has become increasingly bizarre since his arrest on an Interpol warrant at Johannesburg airport in December. His fourth appeal for bail, before the Supreme Court in

on visits to the dentist, he January, was rejected, partly reveals in a letter smuggled to on the grounds that the the Foreign Office from prison judges believed British intelligence might spirit him out of the country in a sub-Hanley, the Foreign Office marine. Last month the mag-

tradition request to be a mis-carriage of fustice. | without hearing the full de-fence case. The judgment was acquiring parts for the fuses, declared void.

Grecian, a regular contact of the Special Branch, alerted the intelligence services to the Iraq supergum in 1989. In 1992 as managing director of the firm Ordiec he was convicted of supplying a fuse assembly line to Iraq.

After the revelations in the

Matrix Churchill case, the convictions against him and three colleagues were quashed on the grounds that

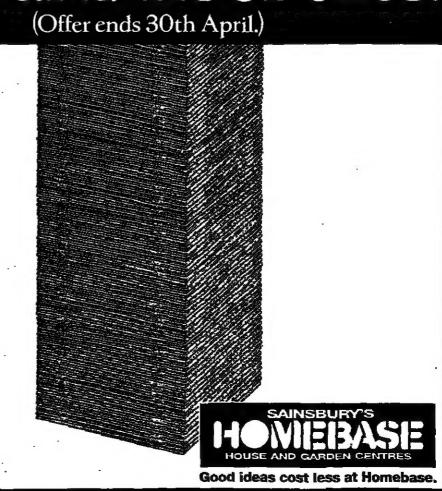
Grecian went to South Africa knowing that an Interpol warrant from the US had been issued for his arrest in 1994. He sought assurances from South African officials

that he would not be detained.

but was arrested. Grecian's father and friends believe there is a political dimension to the case. South Africa is trying to regu-larise its relations with the



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### Clamour grows for ceasefire ● Israeli credit running out ● Pro-Western Arab governments feel popular outrage

# Fanaticism's vile double-headed serpent

#### **Analysis**

David Hirst in Beirut

T WAS a day of atrocities in the Middle East. On the eighth day of its Grapes of Wrath opera-tion in Lebanon, Israeli aircraft added to their Arab expense, ever since. steadily lengthening list of civilian victims by killing a mother, seven children and example of their readiness mother, seven children and a visiting relative in a "pinpoint" raid on a house in Nabatiyeh, and then by kill-ing nearly 100 civilians who had taken refuge at a United Nations peacekeep-

ers' base. In Cairo, four unidentifed In Cairo, four unidentifed gunmen, almost certainly from the fanatical Gama'at al-Islamiyah, or Islamic in poverty, unemployment, al-Islamiyah. or Islamic in poverty, unemployment, nished to the Islamist oppo-Groups, slaughtered 17 over-population, corrup-

mately linked in the minds

of Arabs everywhere. For them, what the Israelis have been doing in Lebanon is another example of the "state terrorism" by which Israel was built, and by which it has been sus-tained, at Palestinian and to unleash random barbar-ities on innocent victims,

There are of course spe-cifically Egyptian reasons, quite unrelated to the

with foreign tourists the

for which "political Islam" of the most extreme and bigoted kind furnishes the ideological justification.

The Egyptian government had of late been claiming that it had smashed its indigenous Islamist terror And a booming tourist trade was proof of that.

were alway liable so long as the basic causes of discontent remained. These have if anything grown worse, especially since De-cember's general election, the most corrupt in Egypt's history, and the incontrovertible evidence it fur-

through parliamentary process: The Cairo massacre, on

the road to the pyramids, is a mighty blow to the government's claims. Doubternment's claims. Doubt-less the four gunmen had specifically Egyptian reasons enough to justify it., But the timing cannot but give it a wider meaning. The "Zionists" — or just "the Jews" as they often call them — loom as large in the demonology of Reyp-tian Islamists as any tian Islamists as any others. Israel is the embodi-ment of Western or Judeo-Christian "oppression" im-planted in the very heart of the Arab-Muslim world. Whether or not Israeli

what the Israelis are doing have made peace with to their fellow-Muslims in

Throughout the Arab world this morning there will be countless newspaper editorials lamenting the bad name these Mus-lims give to Islam but seek-ing to explain the logic behind their actions. They will say, basically, that Is-raeli fanaticism has given rise to another, the Islamists'. That, though not representative of society as a whole, it reflects the deep anger and frustrations fermenting in it. That by its inaction and impotence. every Arab government is exacerbating the popular outrage, despair and humiliation. But that the greatest shame falls upon rather than Greek, tourists were the intended target, there is no question that in

Greek tourists and an tion, remoteness and au moderate wing no less than the minds of these fanatics pro-Western governments, by the great powers, especially the united States.

The atrocities are intia socio-economic protest, could never find a voice tourist is a fit response to Egypt and Jordan, which They were making it impos-

they will echo a front-page editorial on Wednesday by Ibrahim Nafi', the editor of Cairo's al-Ahram. It has a prophetic ring. But what lends it special importance is the fact that al-Ahram is the voice of the Egyptian establishment, and Mr Nafi' could be called the voice of President Hosni Mubarak.
"It is impossible", he

said, "to under-estimate the scope of the anger sweeping the Arab masses. including our people here in Egypt, in reaction to Israel's continued killings and scorched-earth policy These were the excesses of an Israel which did not ex-

sible for Arab governments to go on controlling the reaction of the Arab people. against such humiliation".

governments can be manageable, social conflicts are more difficult to control. especially when they involve all layers of society... What Israel is doing now is returning the Arab-Israeli conflict to a question of life or death where the Arab peoples are concerned. concerned... These opera-tions may be vote-winners in national elections but they unveil the depth of Is-raeli hatred for everything

a desire for revenge among

the Arabs. "If a car is burned in Israel, she finds it enough reason to burn a whole country and displace its population. That - a thousand teeth for one tooth — makes Israeli state terrorism into racism." writes Mr

How long, asks Mr Mu-barak's most authoritative mouthpiece, "can Arab governments remain commitits foundations?

"What Israel and the great could destroy everything that has been accomplished

## Bitter aftertaste to grapes of wrath

HE Israeli get-tough policy in Lebanon was in disarray last night, the country's leaders floundering under international condemnation and domestic consternation. The prime minister. Shi-

mon Peres, said yesterday: "I am sorry that citizens of Lebanon were killed, but Hizbullah is to blame." He convened an emergency liner cabinet session to review the army's eight-day bombardment of

The Isreli army chief. Amnon Shahak, said: "This is not the first time that terrorists, during this operation and previous operations, from areas close to United Nations positions." He added: "There was no mistake on Israel's part.

When we are fired upon, we will fire back." Even after yesterday's massacres, there is no certainty that Israel will call off its hi-

The hawkish foreign miniser. Ehud Barak, predicted that the military operation, codenamed Grapes of Wrath,

"I am sure that along with sorry about any harm done to civilians." he told Israeli

Mr Barak was the army's chief of staff until early 1995. fervent supporters of the curagainst Hizbullah. With few exceptions, the po-

litical establishment backed the operation, though some left-leaning politicians had reservations about its scale, and about the ruthless treat-

Among commentators, it was widely accepted that Israel had accumulated a vast credit of international goodwill and backing after the grisly series of Islamist sui-cide bombings in February and March, and the subse-quent 27-nation summit in

operation in Lebanon, Israel | fired, Israel has the very lat-bas had the unqualified sup-port of the United States, President Bill Clinton losing some of it fitted with radar no opportunity to praise his key Middle East ally.

Now, in the view of at least some observers, Israel's credit could be fast running out even in Washington. Already, for the generals in charge of operations in south Lebanon, the Grapes of Wrath have turned horribly sour.

Throughout the bombard-ment, Hizbullah units have given the lie to military claims that they were "on the run" and "desperate", by fir-ing scores of Katyusha rock-

"We only hit at buildings from which Katyushas were fired',

Mr Peres said

other acute embarrassment for the military establishment Giora Inbar, was obliged to apologise for saying the army "would not allow" Mr Peres to call off the operation.

military spokesmen have bragged about "pin-point pre-cision" and "surgical strikes". Correspondents covrent military campaign ering the operation on Israel's northern borders have been taken to army posts and shown the very latest in radar-based techniques for locating Katyusha launch sites. In one base, young Israelt soldiers, sitting in a tiny cabin crammed with elec-

tronic devices, explained how a rocket firing shows up as a point of light on a large scale

devices which lock on to a

army with the same deathto hit a long-established United Nations base up to 400

In yesterday's other mass killing a family of nine was wiped out when helicopters rocketed a house near the Hizbullah stronghold town of Nabatiyeh. The army explained that

one of its bases in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon had come under attack, and that the gurmen had fled into the house, which was therefore Mr Peres said he was "sur-

prised" by the killings.
"We only hit at those buildings from which Katyushas were fired," be said. "But natposed to be vacant." He was speaking at a news

conference after two hours of talks with the Palestinian which they agreed measure: to restore momentum to their flagging peace accords. for his efforts to fight Islamist

activists and supporters of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad up by the Palestinian police since the suicide bombings. convene a special session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in the Gaza Strip next week to debate the removal of the clauses in the PLO charter which call for the destruction of Israel.

The outcome of the PNC meeting is by no means cer-tain, however. Several PLO hardliners have said they will vote against the amendment

map of south Lebanon.

"It takes a couple of seconds," said a female officer. "Then we pass on the information to the artillery and they do the rest."

"It was a couple of the change is Leila Khaled, the former hijacker and self-proclaimed freedom fighter, who contained into the West." Egypt. which resoundingly
rondemned terrorism.

In all its dealings since
then, including the current
they do the rest.

The army boasts that it can
bit Katyusha launch sites
that it can
bit Katyusha launch sites
with exact accuracy within 30
Palestine, drawing noisy protests from Jewish settlers. Bank yesterday and spoke of her delight in being back in



Deafening strike . . . An Israeli soldier covers his ears as a canon fires at Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon yesterday

Billie He

for j

### Shelling makes **US think again**

RESIDENT Clinton said yesterday he had told his secretary of state, Warren Christopher, to go to the Middle East, and he called on all parties to end the fight-ing in Lebanon with an imme-

diate ceasefire. United States officials said that Israel's shelling of a United Nations base was forc-ing them to consider new initlatives, after earlier having given the green light to the onslaught against Hizbullah

"Our objective is, as quickly as possible, to end the fighting, said Nicholas Burns, a state department spokesman. World leaders gathering in

Moscow for the weekend Group of Seven (G7) nuclear safety summit expressed dis-may at yesterday's bloodshed. France's president, Jacques Chirac, appealed to all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire, as a statement said Paris was "stupefied" by the killings. Russia's foreign min-ister. Yevgeny Primakov, said John Major said: "I think this is a dreadful loss of life.

recurrence.
"Anyone can look back at the Hizbullah attacks into Israel and the Israeli attacks into Lebanon. But that is nonproductive. What is productive is to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

Malcolm Rifkind, the For-

eign Secretary, said the incl-dent "demonstrated the urgent need for violence in the region to be brought to an end". But there was no con-

mounted yesterday for the UN Security Council to call for a ceasefire in southern Leba-non, but American diplomats said the US would try to delay any action by the council.

British and Russian ambas sadors said they had reserva tions about an Arab resolu-tion which would condemn Israel but make no mention of attacks by Hizbullah.

The immediate result is likely to be increased interna-tional pressure on Israel to negotiate a ceasefire, though the prime minister, Shimon Peres, insisted the offensive would continue. A UN statement said the

A UN streement said the secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "deplores and condemns... in the strongest possible terms" Israel's shelling of the UN post.
In the Arab world there was angry condemnation from Jordan, which has a peace

treaty with Israel. King Hussein demanded an immediate halt to the bombardments. Any solution is likely to be based on an informal 1993 agreement brokered by the Red Cross under which Hiz-bullah and Israel agreed to limit offensive action subject

to certain conditions. John Major said: "I think this is a dreadful loss of life. Hoated by Paris on Wednes-What we have to look at now day, the US and France would guarantee a truce under which Israel, Lebanon and Hizbullah would pledge not to hit civilian targets.

Syria would indicate its acceptance to the guarantors. but would not be directly res-possible for enforcing the accord.

The US has tacitly backed Israel's attacks, which it saw as a legitimate response to Hizbullah and a way of strengthening Mr Peres's lead



### Grief gives way to rage as children's bodybags arrive

### **Eyewitness**

### Najla Abu Jahjah in Tyre

LD men and women wept with grief and the young screamed with agony and rage as the children were brought in, two or three little bodies

packed into each bag.
Red Cross workers carried in the big orange bags.
put them on the hospital floor and unzipped them. They felt the pulse of each child to be sure they were dead, then zipped them up

"Oh. what a crime," one Red Cross worker said. in the hallways and wards, the wounded and be-reaved shouted, waved their arms or writhed on the floor in grief amid a din of shricking and weeping. The floors were slippery with blood.

On the floor of an operating theatre, a young man lay dying, apparently forthis ancient Lebanese city, crowds of women wailed as the dead, wounded and dying were brought in. Bloodled and shocked, they flooded into Tyre's Najem hospital and two others. "May God send a plague on you, Israel," a woman

hallway, her face smeared with blood. "I want my brothers and my sister. Women stood together against the walls, weeping and shouting at each other. "Oh God, my brother All is howled.

Doctors worked wherever they could find space.
On benches, tables and in operating theatres. Scores of the injured lay in hallways and corridors as wards overflowed.

Mariam Haidar, aged 10, her face ripped by shrapnel, said she saw her sister die as Israeli shells ex-ploded. 'I looked at my sister and I saw blood coming out of her mouth, then the building started collapsing

loads of corpses were sent up the coast road to Sidon Tyre's biblical twin city. "No", screamed a young woman in disbelief. "Ahlam is alive. I saw her walk-ing. I saw her walking." she shouted, beating her head in anguish. Fadi Jaher, aged 21, wept as he told how the first Is-

raeli shell slammed into the refugees crowded into the United Nations base, and the peacekeepers told them to go into shelters. "Then a second shell bit us, followed by three more at one-minute intervals." he said. "I heard people scream Allahu Akbar [God

brains fell out into my "I saw a dead Unifil captain whose shoulder was blown off. His stomach was gutted open and blood was spilling from it." Mr Jaber

is Great]. A woman fainted, so I reached over to

check her head and her

sobbed. Latifeb Roumiyyeh, aged 60. lay on a bed with her on us," she said.

Each hospital in Tyre the names of her children. "I issued calls for blood do-nors and doctors. When the dren and grandchildren

Perhaps the

most glaring

is the FBI's failure to find

John Doe 2,

at Elliott's claimed was with Mr McVeigh when he hired

the truck

the man staff

gap in the case

The government is still a long way from convicting the man all America blames for the terror bombing a year ago, lan Katz reports

# Squaring the circle in Oklahoma

FRAMED article on a cluttered wall office defends a man the Oklahoma lawyer considered "a victim of publicity and prejudgment caused by media hysteria". The man was Mr Jones's

former employer and mentor Richard Nixon, but the statement could just as easily have come from the lawyer's de-fence of his most recent and most notorious client, Timo-

most notorious client, Timothy McVeigh.
Although the 28-year-old
Guif war veteran and his former army buddy Terry Nichols, aged 40, may not stand
trial for the Oklahoma City
bombing for almost a year,
Mr McVeigh was convicted in
the court of American public
ominion long age. opinion long ago.

Within weeks of America's

worst-ever terrorist attack, a year ago today, a flurry of FBI leaks and "investigative" newspaper reports had persuaded most people that the police had found damning evidence against Mr McVeigh.

Long articles probed the or-igins of his hatred of federal government and depicted a gun-crazed loner, determined to seek revenge for the FBI's disastrous Waco raid exactly two years before the blast in Oklahoma City that killed

In one national survey last February, 65 per cent of res-pondents said they believed Mr McVeigh was guilty. An even stronger belief in Oklahoma prompted the United States district judge Richard Matsch to move the trial to

But while there has been little sign of a shift in public attitudes to Mr McVeigh, who like Mr Nichols faces the death penalty if convicted, there are growing doubts about the strength of the case

alysing more than 100,000 they are innocent.



Prime suspect . . . Timothy McVeigh, alleged to have carried out the Oklahoma bombing, is escorted from court soon after the attack a year ago

In the absence of eyewit- Oklahoma plot and later ing was not rented until the Josh nesses or confessions, prose- struck a deal with prosecutive will rely on scientific tors under which he will "When you stop and think blank telephone calls during the biggest criminal investiga-tion in the country's history, the investigators have only circumstantial evidence

Prosecutors allege that Mr McVeigh and Mr Nichols those used in the bomb, and on witnesses who say Mr built the huge bomb in a park McVeigh hired the truck used near the latter's home in Her-rington, Kansas, and that Mr-McVeigh detonated it in a truck outside the federal building the pext day. to transport it. The government's star wit-ness is Michael Fortier, a close friend of Mr McVeigh's, who is expected to testify that

Several witnesses say they saw Mr McVeigh in central Oklahoma City on the morning of the explosion, but no one saw him park the vehicle outside the Murrah Building, Despite interviewing more or construct the bomb with than 21,000 witnesses and an Mr Nichols. Both men insist

against the two defendents.

evidence and documents link-ing Mr McVeigh and Mr Nich-ols to materials similar to

he and Mr McVeigh drove to Oklahoma City four months before the bombing to size up the Murrah Building as a possible target.
But Mr Jones points out

that Mr Fortier is a self-con-fessed drug user who initially

about it there are a dozen gaps in the government's theory, but they have just ploughed ahead and tried to square the circle," Mr Jones avoid a long prison sentence.

Mr Jones points out that there are countless other weakness and inconsistencies in the government's case. For

example, at least one person at Elikott's Body Shop in Junction City, Kansas, where Mr McVeigh is alleged to have hired the truck, initially Perhaps the most glaring gap in the case is the FBI's failure to find the suspect who has been dubbed John gave a description that did Doe No 2, the man whom staff not match Mr McVeigh.
Mr Jones also claims that
Les McGowan, proprietor of
the Dreamland Motel, where at Elliott's claimed was with Mr McVeigh when he hired the truck.
Investigators have questioned countless men fitting

Mr McVeigh allegedly stayed before the bombing, said she had seen him with a Ryder truck on April 16, although the description — they have even considered the possibil-ity that he may have been Mr Nichols' 13-year-old son

have drawn an embarrassing Even more problematic for prosecutors could be witnesses who claim to have seen a third man, resembling

neither Mr Nichols nor John

Doe No 2, driving the Ryder truck in Oklahoma City on Mr Jones claims such ac-Mr Jones claims such ac-counts add credibility to his theory that the bombing was carried out by rightwing ex-tremists seeking revenge for the execution of the white su-premacist Richard Snell on

the day of the bombing. Snell is known to have nur-tured an ambition to bomb he Murrah Building himself, Mr Jones points out.

He wonders why the FBI has never interviewed Dennis Mahon, a former Ku Klux Klan leader with links to the Rev Robert Millar, the leader of a rightwing Christian com-munity who served as spiri-tual advisor to Snell on death

He has also raised questions about the role of Andreas Strassmetr, a rightwing for-mer German soldier who had links with Mr Millar's Elohim City community.

Mr Jones would like to know why Mr Strassmeir was "spirited" out of the United States before he could be interviewed by investigators. to cover it up."

"They simply gave the old | With prosecutors saying man a going away gift," be | nothing about the details of their case, conspiracy theo-ries have proliferated. Mr Jones travelled to Lon-

don earlier this year to look for links to Britain's far right. Meanwhile some relatives of victims of the bombing have become convinced that the attack on the Murrah Building was the outcome of a

botched FBI sting operation. "We believe there was a government informant involved and they expected the building to be blown up ear-lier," said Kathy Wilburn, whose grandchildren Chase and Colton Smith died in the

"That's why they have tried

## Spend an hour with Billie Holiday for just £1.99

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#### **News in brief**

#### Vietnamese sent home

AGROUP of Vietnamese, many of whom had fied their country in fragile boats, were being returned to their bomeland yesterday in a Malaysian navy transport ship, writes Nicholas Cumming 317 Vietnamese were

forced back under an "orderly repatriation proramme" aimed at accelerat-ng the return of boat people judged to be economic mi-grants, not genuine refugees. It is the first time Hanoi has allowed Vietnamese to be repa-triated by ship, and is seen as a

test for other countries in the region still holding boat people. But hundreds of police

### Mutiny at Everest base camp

AFURIOUS row has broken out on Mount Everest between a South African expedition's British leader and its reported yesterday to be sponsors, which could prove life-threatening, writes David

Three of South Africa's top mountaineers have pulled out of the climb — staged by the Johannesburg Sunday Times to raise funds for President

reported yesterday to be threatening to pull out too, after Mr Woodall and his There are fears for the safety of Deshum Deysel, a black

### Mugabe harassment claim

N INDEPENDENT member of the Zimbabwean Andrew Meldrum in Harare. parliament, Margaret Dongo,
said yesterday that she and
her supporters had been
harassed by police on the
orders of President Robert

Three of her supporters
were picked up on Wednesday, and at least one of them
was beaten. Others received
orders to turn themselves in.

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### War crimes, nothing less

Israel's reckless action will consume the peace

KILLING CIVILIANS is a barbaric act. | Israel's allies can now longer maintain whether at a UN base in south Lebanon | a complicit silence: the UN Secretaryor outside a Cairo hotel. Yesterday's attack by militant gunmen, in which 17 Greek tourists and an Egyptian were killed, was promptly labelled a massacre. The same word applies to the slaughter inflicted by Israeli shells on the Lebanese civilians - too many yet to count accurately - sheltering in the village of Qana. Yes, the gunmen intended to kill tourists (perhaps thinking they were Israelis rather than Greeks). And yes, the Israeli army did not intend to hit the base where the Lebanese had taken refuge, but may have been firing wildly, or in anger, after a Katyusha was apparently launched from nearby. But to undertake such reckless action, as part of a campaign which for the past week has been designed to terrorise and punish the civilian population of south Lebanon, is morally indistinguishable. Something like this was bound to happen sooner or later: indeed the killing of nine civilians earlier in the day in a rocket attack on Nabatiyeh (they should not have been there, said Shimon Peres) was bad enough. As in the cases of previous incidents, including the attack on an ambulance, it was both unjustified in military terms and a breach of international agreements on the protection of civilians in times of conflict. What happened hours later was different only in scale. Is there any reason not to regard these appalling incidents as plain crimes of war?

Initial response from Israel was on the grudging lines of foreign minister Ehud Barak's comment that "we are very sorry about any harm done to civilians." This will go down in the annals of inadequate response. But Israel should realise that this incident will do as much damage to their cause as the mortar shelling of the Sarajevo marketplace did to the Bosnian Serbs.

General has condemned the Israeli offensive - in terms which he should have used days ago. Even the British Foreign Office now ventures to say that is "gravely disturbed". And friends of Israel must understand that this is a disaster for the country as well for the region. If it leads to the sort of cool reflection which has been lacking from the whole Israeli campaign, that at least may save more lives. Mr Peres is a man of thought, who is certainly capable of grasping the moral dimension and of calculating the benefit of long-term progress against short-term gain. It is a tragedy that, whether entirely volun-tarily or under pressure from the army, he has allowed the quest for electoral advantage — and the illusory aim of compelling Syria to give ground — to sweep aside all other consideration.

The political atmosphere of the Middle East is notoriously changeable. Just weeks ago in Egypt the threat of militant violence was judged to be on the wane; the tourists were back and the capital was calm. Yet this had been achieved without any attempt to offer a political solution to the fundamentalist challenge. Thousands of militants were jailed and the Muslim Brotherhood was boxed out of last November's elections but there has been no equivalent offensive against poverty and unemployment. In Israel, a moderately hopeful climate has been transformed for the worse in a very short space of time with the terrorists and Israel each compounding the damage inflicted by the other side. To become obsessed by Syria, and by every incoming Katyusha rocket, is to surrender to the opposition forces which Mr Peres seeks to defeat in the election. The war in Lebanon once again threatens to consume the peace. Mr Peres and his cabinet must pause, clear their vision, and call an end.

### Sir Patrick's fancy footwork

Will the Unionists go along with such pragmatic politics?

COMPARED with the Canary Wharf on the rails even against a descant of and Aldwych explosions, Wednesday's limited IRA activity. IRA bomb in London was relatively This is the right course for the Govminor. It killed no one and injured no one; it did relatively little physical dangerous one. If it is to succeed, the damage. It had even been widely predicted, and others like it are expected soon. The really remarkable thing as possible. Participation in the about the bomb is that it has caused so planned May elections is one of them, little political damage either. The Prime Minister of course condemned it, to accept that, judging by Gerry and so do we all. But politicians seem prepared to live with this level of bombings for the time being, as they showed by giving a second reading yesterday to legislation which is designed to bring Sinn Fein into the negotiating process in just over seven weeks' time. This is a remarkable cultural shift. It

is less than three months since the end of the IRA ceasefire. That ceasefire was long regarded as the absolutely necessary pre-condition for political talks. Ministers spent months in 1994-95 refusing to make any kind of political move until the IRA said it was permanent. Then they got tired of waiting. But by that same token, no such moves would now be made either. In fact, the reverse is the case. The political process goes busily on, even though Wednesday's bomb was a noisy reminder that the ceasefire isn't there any more. IRA bombers are out there somewhere, ready to up the ante if they don't get what they want, yet all the signs are that this will not be necessary. The British Government seems to have com-

Government must place as few preconditions upon entry to the June 10 talks and Sinn Fein seems increasingly likely Adams's most recent remarks. A renewed ceasefire is clearly, at that stage, another. But the Government seems far less exacting these days about what that might mean in practice. Yesterday's second reading of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations Etc) Bill was conspicuous for Sir Patrick Mayhew's fancy footwork on the issue. Quizzed by Ian Paisley about whether he would accept a ceasefire only hours before talks were due to begin. Sir Patrick said that he would review the circumstances at the relevant time in their totality. In other words, yes,

Increasingly, the real question is not whether the Government and Sinn Fein will talk to each other, difficult though that is, since the chances are that in the end they will. The real issue is whether the two large Unionist parties will join such a transparently pragmatic process. Mr Paisley, it is assumed, will not; David Trimble's Ulster Unionists are another matter. As the countdown to June 10 begins, Mr Trimble is becoming the key player. The hardest part of the mitted itself to keep the peace process | peace process is only just beginning.

### Taking the country for a ride

What's wrong with taxing anti-social company car perks?

IT SPEAKS volumes about Labour's on buses and trains. And why such a determination not to upset middle-class | fuss over company cars? The Conservavoters that it has denied our report yesterday that it has plans, among other things, to tax company-car users more. Labour stressed that next month's transport policy document won't contain any proposals to increase company-car taxes. Clare Short, shadow transport secretary, added that there was "no remote connection" between Labour's transport document and the Guardian version (marked "First Draft"). We can't think why they're so embarrassed. The first draft contains sensible suggestions which all classes would agree with, including a 30 per cent reduction in urban traffic over 10 years (less than 3 per cent a year). Among the measures are speed limits of Smph on some residential streets - a perk most middle-class residents would covet, as they would French-style picnic

areas on motorways and flexible travel

tives have been taxing them heavily for years without the middle classes taking to the streets. The reason is that it is difficult to justify not only why so many company cars unnecessarily enter city centres taking up valuable parking space, but also why they should receive enormous tax relief to do so.

The Conservatives have milked this cow thoroughly. Labour's first draft was merely proposing to tie-up loose ends, like charging the full value of free petrol and penalising the fiddling of business mileage for tax purposes (costing the Revenue over £500 million a year). Labour could use money like this if Ms Short is to fulfil her admirable promise of "massively enhancing the quality of public transport". To do this without adding to public spending or upsetting the middle classes would be an impressive achievement indeed.



#### Letters to the Editor

### The not so secret police A rich crop of figures that belie Mr Lilley's poverty

that are hard to beat, April 18). In Humberside, we are far rigorous scrutiny as part of our public accountability. We regularly publish priorities and policies, together with our record of achie

Those priorities are based on extensive consultation with our public and all poli-cles are underpinned by the highest ethical standards, par-ticularly in respect of the recording of statistical information, even when that leads to an apparent deterioration in performance. Our policy, published in 1992, of concen-trating on primary detections rather than manipulating crime figures through prison visit "write-offs" demonstrates that commitment to openness and integrity.

As for your suggestion of compulsory press conferences, my deputy chief constable has my deputy chei constante has answered media questions on the Audit Commission find-ings and I have just taken part in a live, one-hour, phone-in programme on local radio as part of the accountability process. Some of us have been St Anne Street Pol doing, for some considerable Liverpool L3 3HJ.

ot in life.

Tony Leonard. Chief Constable Humberside Police, Queens Gardens,

To CLAIM that the police service is "secretive in terms of its priorities, policies and record" is simply perverse. It is constantly under the microscope of public scrutiny and is, quite rightly; subject to a continuous examination of its performance by local police authorities, the media and the public. media and the public.

In terms of adapting to modtransforming its systems, pro-cedures and methods to address the needs of today and the future.

You accuse the service of having a military hierarchy yet believe the bobby on the beat is unsupervised; a contradiction, surely. Your suggestion that every force should hold a press conference to respond to league tables is facile. It may make the evening news, but otherwise it would be of limited use. be of limited use. (Insp) Frank Greaney

YOU REALISE

Mary Robinson, April 17)

raises an important question; who is to be the next Secre-

Bruce Kent.

Chair, Forum for UN Renewal, c/o 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

St Anne Street Police Station.

THE AUDIT Commission claims that extra funds may not improve police "per-formance". Such studies beg the question as to whether police performance can be satisfactorily measured. But, more fundamentally, one has more fundamentally, one has to ask why were some areas getting extra funding?

The answer may well be that local politicians or the Home Office judged that those areas were facing especially acute crime problems. If this is the case, then the extra funds may be serving a valuable service in forestalling even worse "performance".

even worse "performance". One would have hoped that the Audit Commission which frequently mounts a creditable defence of the public sections describe of the plan-lic sector—would have been a little more cautious in offer-ing succour to the enemies of public services. Peter C Smith.

Department of Economics and Related Studies, University of York, York YO1 5DD.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Ferringdon Road, London EC1R SER, and by e-ma to letters@guardien.co.uk. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

#### JOHN, WED ALL SUPPORT & DECIDE

DENIS Vaughan, of the Lot-tery Promotion Company, continues to muddle matter and use figures be should know are misleading in his letter (April 12) concerning National Lottery running costs. Camelot is expected to retain 5 per cent of revenue, over the length of its licence, to cover operating costs and profit. Retailers are paid 5 per cent commission on sales. This was the lowest operating cost of all the applicants an compares favourably with other international operators. In the United States, the top five revenue-earning lotteries list total expenses of between 9 and 15 per cent. This shows that the competitive process used to select Camelot squeezed profits and ex-penses, as I promised in 1994 The National Audit Office which endorsed the decision to appoint Camelot, is not noted for its support of "overgenerous" contracts. Peter Davis. Director General, Oflot.

2 Monck Street. London SWIP 2BQ.

/OUR report on a commen oration of the Interna-tional Brigades (Anti-fascists carried the fight from Spain to London, April 13) describe Jack Shaw, aged 78, as "the youngest living British veteran of the Spanish Civil War". This cannot be correct. I am 77 years old (born November 10, 1910). I joined the British Battalion in the summer to the correct of the British Battalion in the summer to the summer mer of 1937, and took part in the battle of Fuentes De Ebro, in the Lower Aragon designed unsuccessfully to sweep on to Zaragoza and the Basque country. I continue to fight fascism with the same lack of success in, and in relation to, Bosnia. Sir Aldred Sherman. 14 Malvern Court,

OHN O'Reilly, in his article on the Jack Duckworth Memorial Clinic (The great art hoax, April 18), suggets that I along with other sections of the media were taken in by David West and Joshua Compston's clinic for treating soap addicts. On the contrary, I exposed this hoax over a month ago in the Sunday Times. And unlike O'Rell-ly, I did not have assistance only my journalistic instinct. Cosmo Landesman. Southampton Row,

London SW7 3HU.

So you want to rule the world? VICTORIA Brittain (Why YOUR Ill-considered attack the UN should turn to Boutros-Boutros Ghali is an all-too-typical slur on the work of one of the finest Secretary-Generals who has ever

tary-General? There is another, equally critical, one.
How is he or she to be chosen?
Article 97 of the UN Charter served the UN. The United Nations Association has consistently praised his work over the last five says only that "the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Seyears and tried to draw atten-tion to the way his commendable efforts to resolve the con-flicts in Somalia, Western curity Council". The present system of secret lobbying is not immutable. The Govern-ment would do the world a service if it raised the issue in and elsewhere have been undermined by member states and, among others, British press commentators. He has set a new agenda for the future of global peace and Parliament and canvassed the views of NGOs, which have consultative status with the UN. It's time to introduce the

security, which is recognised by those who are better in-formed than your Josh Arnold-Forster c/o 25 Bracey Street. London N4 3BJ.

### Silent colonel Hot Lazarus

ATHY Evans, your corre-spondent in Libya (April MARK LAWSON (Luke-warm Lazarus from Pot-18), might like to put my quester, April 15) seems to have tions to Colonel Gadafy. · Why won't he issue a crash report on the collision of the Libyan MiG that collided with the passenger plane on De-cember 22, 1992 killing every-one on board, including my husband, Victor Prazak? • Why won't be grant an in-quest into the death?

Why has Libya never offered me any compensation for this tragedy and the painful lives my children and I now lead because of it? Why was my husband buried in Tripoll without my permission?

 Why was I forbidden to see the crash site when I visited the mass grave my husband is buried in? Why does Gadafy always ignore every request I make? The list goes on. Felicity Prazak.

invented a new form of TV criticism — that of reviewing a programme without having actually watched it. He sug-gests that the careers of most writers, including Dennis Pot-ter's, follow a melancholy pattern in which "talent accrues and then reduces". We doubt this will be the viewers' final verdict on either Karaoke or Cold Lazarus. We did not expect to be con-

gratulated on the unique col-laboration between broadcasters that brought these works to television. We were hoping for a more considered appraisal of their transition from page to screen Michael Wearing. Head of Drama Serials, BBC.

Peter Ansorge. Head of Drama Serials, Channel 4. c/o Centre House, 56 Wood Lane London W12 78B.

bles of which Mr Lilley seems so proud (Poverty, what poverty?, April 17).

Forty-three per cent of fam-ilies headed by someone who is economically mactive do not have a video recorder. 18 per cent do not have central heating and 55 per cent do not have a car. Surveys, such as the National Children's Home 1991 Poverty and Nutrition survey, have shown children going hungry because of lack of money. The diets of people in lower socio-economic classes are lower in vitamins and minerals.

Estimates of people who cannot afford to heat their homes (people in "fuel poyerty") run to about 6.6 to 8 mil-iton. Winter deaths, associated poorly-insulated homes, exceed summer deaths by around 30,000 annually. This is a particularly British prob-lem not seen in a range of other countries with much more severe winter weather. In addition, living in an inadequately-heated, damp house is associated with a range of

heelth problems. The result is that the poor in this country have worse that, over the years, their health relative to other groups has got worse. At a local level, the health of some groups has got worse in absolute terms.

Until governments accept and act on the causes of pov-erty, we will be left pulling bodies out of the river rather than looking upstream to see why they are falling in. earch Manager Royal Society of Health, 38a St George's Drive, London SW1V 4BH.

OR a government so keen on following scientific evi-dence in relation to BSE, it seems strangely reluctant to acknowledge the scientific evidence on poverty in Britain. The Breadline Britain Survey demonstrated that 20 per cent of households (approximately 11 million people) in 1990 were living in poverty. Ten million people could not afford adequate housing and seven million lacked essential clothing, such as a warm waterproof cost. There were approximatley 2.5 million children who were forced to go without one of the thines they needed, like three meals

DECENT statistics published in the General Rousehold Survey show that large numbers of people do not own the consumer duration of the consumer dur

phone or carpets.
Similar results were found in November 1995 by the BBC's Poor Wales Survey. More than one in four Welsh people could not afford one or more of the necessities of life; 150,000 could not afford adequate housing and 170,000 went without adequate cloth-ing. One in 10 Welsh families cannot afford to buy their ment, and one in five live ment, and one in five live without adequate financial security. Finally, over 100,000 Welsh people were found not to have an adequate diet due to financial hardship.

Christina Pantazis.

(Dr) David Gordon. Statistical Monitoring Unit, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol. 8 Woodland Road.

AT THE UN Social Summit fin Copenhagen in March 1995, Lyoda Chalker said: "We must never be complement about tackling inequality and injustice". She agreed that "social integration means helping those groups who are prevented from taking advan-tage of the benefits of growth If these statements do not recognise the relative nature of poverty, I am at a loss to understand why they were

49 Guildford Road, London SW9.

> YOUR coverage of Peter Lil-ley's remarks omitted to mention the damage he is proposing under the cover of the DSS Change programme. In October, the out-of-hours service provided by the Bene-

fits Agency whilst offices are closed at night and weekends will be abolished and anyone who finds themselves destitute will have to await the opening of their BA office or contact the duty social worker. The Freeline service, which provides information on benefits, is also in the sights of the cutter.

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The Change programme has at its heart a cutback in service and provision with the aim of privatising the socialsecurity system. Dave Alston.

Vice-president DHSS Group, Public Services Tax and Commerce Union. 47 Victoria Avenue. Southend-on-sea

### A Country Diary

a day or toys. Five million people were not fed properly

martins arrive to nest under the eaves of our old house and in the stable roof. Having seen swifts and swallows in March feeding on the banks of a river in Africa in their thousands, swooping over ponds and marshes, touching the water as they do in England in high summer, makes their the elements. We have one house martin

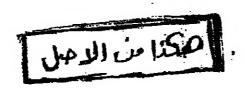
with a crooked leg which has | ment from dogs. returned to nest for five summers. I watch her feathering her nest and think of what distances and experiences have been faced by that wee hird. On our North-east coast, are the terns, in this county we have all five species. Arc-tic, sandwich and common terns visit to breed in large numbers; the roseate and lit-tle terns are less common. The Farnes and Coquet islands offer safe nesting sites

NORTHUMBERLAND: We with enough small fish and know that spring is really here when the swallows and feed on. On our last visit to the Farnes, the wardens pointed out a lesser-crested female tern, which they have named Elsie. This species normally does not nest nearer than North Africa, but she has been coming over for 12 years with the sandwich terns, mates with them and raises hybrid chicks. "Small long migration journey seem numbers of Arctic terms nest truly remarkable. Such tiny, on mainland sites on this fragile bodies journeying coast," said the warden. "But they suffer from predators. they suffer from predators. Stoats, weasels, rats, foxes and occasionally, harrass-

Arctic terns are brave birds, aggressive to anyone approaching their nests on the ground, but stand no chance against animals on the prowl for their eggs. the real harbingers of spring | Terms ringed on the Farnes have been reported on the edge of the icepack in the Antarctic and, occasionally, as far as Australia - so they actually commute between the two polar regions during the course of a single year.

VERONICA HEATH





Rowditch Lane,

London SW11.

#### Diary

#### Matthew Norman

BW Labour, according to yesterday's Guardian, plans to be beastly to company-car drivers, hiking taxes and seeking out tax-avoiders. The document seems to be silent, however, about any intention to punish the one class of company-car driver granted relief on journeys between the home and place of work . . . government ministers. When the Inland Revenue started sniffing round the question of why users of ministerial cars weren't paying like every-one else, the Government found a tough, no-nonsens pre-emptive strike: it sim-ply changed the law, put-ting a clause into the Finance Bill exempting its own members. Brilliant! Whether Labour ministers will repeal this nonsense and cost themselves a small fortune, we will have to wait and see. At present. only one opposition figure has direct personal experi-ence of this tricky issue, Mr Tony Blair. The sworn foe of the company car has a cour-tesy ministerial Rover, and can jaunt between Islington and Westminster all day without paying a bean.

AUL Draper writes to congratulate Newham Council on its prompt dealing with a housing-ben-efit claim. Mr Draper has just learned that he has been granted £27.41 per week towards his rent for the period between March 19 and April 1 (1990).

dittles that

its a naverty

John Major is de-pressed, so let us cheen him up with another reading from Major, Major, by his big brother Terry. Today's extract finds Terry in Germany doing his National Service. Shortly after an official report clears him after the ambulance he was looking after caught fire, Terry and several colleagues were sent to help an officer move house. The officer's wife was a gave us tea and cakes before we even started." The men's task was to assemble a large wardrobe, "Perhaps because of the cakes, perhaps because it was very stuffy inside the cupboard," Terry goes on, "I fell asleep and the others thought it would be a fine joke to leave me there when they left." It was in hitching a lift back to barracks that Terry com-mitted "my second faux pas of the day", but that's ap-

Tlast, a female reader has come for-ward to answer to the plea for would-be wives (or "life partners" as he calls them in that funny PC way of his) for lonely Andrew Neil. It is my mother. 'T'll go to Annabel's with him any time he likes," she says. "I think he's lovely." Pausing only to refill the syringe, I now make the final appeal for potential spouses. Send in a brief application for m (with accompanying photo), and you could win not only the trip to Annabel's (with free champagne and 1970s disco dancing thrown in) and the pair of Doc Martens, but a soulmate for life. For God's sake, there must be one of you with the balls

O you remember
Toyah Wilcox as a
punky adolescent
singer? "I'm going to turn
suburbia upside down," she used to scream. Toyah was the subject of a celebrity in-terview in yesterday's Daily Mail, which asked how she met her husband. "Princess Michael of Kent introduced Ab yes, those stirring dreams of youth.

HR historian David Irving, who disputes the central facts of the Holocaust, and who gets jolly batey when called a "Hitler apologist", is hold-ing the party for his new hook about Goebbels at his Mayfair flat tonight. The fact that today is the eve of Hitler's birthday is, he as-sures us, nothing more than

ROM GMTV, the breakfast show pre-sented with such intelligence by Authea Turner, came this yesterday; "And as our tribute to Yehudi Menuhin's 80th birthday, we'll be looking at some of the world's most glamorous grans." You couldn't make it up, squire. You just couldn't make it up.





## Message in a bottle of champagne

### Commentary

### Peter Preston

TWAS the clearest of blue mornings on the last day of the hols. The great plain where Champagne meets Picardy stretched away meets Picarry stretched away
towards Reims, beyond the
Gothic miracle of Laon cathedral. Birds sang. Coffee and
croissants arrived on call.
Everything signalled a heartwarning change in the seasons. Beng on The bettered sons. Bang on. The battered hotel TV set, against all scientific odds, turned out to carry Sky News. And there, before the coffee cooled, was Nor-man Lamont slagging off the

Just as winter becomes spring in a trice, so the elec-tion season suddenly dawns after months of grey chuntering. The greater-crested Lamont returns to its old haunts, chirmping bizarrely the bestest of admiration for months of hysteria and synthetic wrath and sheer, grinding beastliness. We need our manories honed and Jennifer's ear-plugs dusted.
Because they're so stinky,
the amplies of political exis-

tence, you forget what general wise, as the next bell sounds, to look back in humility at the fight that went before, to brood over all the predictions that went wrong and the promises which drained into promises which drained into the guiters. Easy for 1992. Everybody, those who played, those who watched, those who polled, made idiots of

Norman, meanwhile, is get-ting into his stride. The Ex-change Rate Mechanism is a There can be no question of re-joining it. Of course, under his gritty superintendence, some taxes had had to be raised But now we were on course for sustained recovery, the wonders of

same Norman, this bird of in-

Goldsmith in equal measures electoral triumph, was telling the razor-billed Mawhinney bites Sue MacGregor on the mose. We're into six/nine/12 not an optional extra, an addnot an optional errra, an add-on to be jettisoned at the first hint of trouble. It is, and will remain, at the very centre of our macro-economic strat-egy." The chancellor-that-was rehearsed five so-called alter-native policies — including "leaving the ERM and cutting interest rates" or "leaving the ERM and sating strict monetary targets". No good, he said, useless. "They are all illusory and destined to fail.

They would not deliver low inflation". Lamont, of course, was not Lamont, of course, was not alone at the time. He was one big parrot amongst many, squawking the Major Mynah tune. "We are in the mechanism because that is where the Government judge we should be," sang the PM. "Nobody compelled us. We took a judgment. Beroness Thatrher and I took a judgment that it was the right thing to do."

You may hear such refrains

You may hear such refrains revived over the coming year, though only at the basest level of argy-bargy (as in Mawhinney kicks Mother Teresa on Knee Horror). But, there again, nobody may make much of it on stage where the much of it on stage where the

seems to dominate. They cer-tainly didn't last time. A little Austin Mitchell invective and Will Hutton analysis had to

Will Hutton analysis had to serve.
Yet nothing in 1992, or since, has been more crucial. If the Tories are dished (as ICM and majority of their own MPs in chorus believe) it's because Black Wednesday, that memorable September, made fools of them all and shredded belief ao comprehensively it is simply impossible to restore. They were sunk within six months of a sunk within six months of a victory by an issue the three front benches agreed on. The election itself was an irrele-vance. The manifestoes were irrelevant. Greater realities

That's the bit of the 96/97 deck which needs clearing early. For what would have bappened four years ago if the

If the Tories are dished it's because Black Wednesday

made fools of them all

polisters had been right, it Labour had indeed won! Shadow Chancellor Smith, pound. Then Shadow Chan-cellor Brown echoed his lead er's line. Even after the September débacle, Labour policy still insisted that withdrawsi from the mecha-Britain's long-term economic

last champagne cork had popped. And then where would we have been? With a Labour Government crippled

and failing. With a Conserva-tive Opposition regrouping gleefully for 13 more years in the start on such things, be-cause they determine the future in a way which no rhetoric can. These are different times, of course. There will be a bit of a debate about Europe, but mostly on the coded circuit of Clarke and Portillo. Labour's anxious winning team (shredding new surveys about Euro-splits in the ranks) will Short-circuit

any doubts amongst top The question European fi-nance ministers would most like answered - Will you get back in the ERM sharpish as a mandatory prelimi-nary to monetary union? nust surely echo into empty

long migration, Norm. Perch on my cathedral spire whilst you peck a scrap of croissant. This second coming reminds me where we went first time round. Millions of angry words, thousands of furious charges: and all of them — as it proved then and may prove again — beside the ultimate point, where the Grim Reaper

# turning back But Prime Min-ister Kinnock and Chancellor Smith would surely have smith would surely have found September happening a little early in 1992: like June. They were pledged publicly and privately to perish any thought of devaluation, to fight harder than Lamont: but the tides of Soros would have surely washed them away, out of the system, before the last chambague, cork had



Bel Littlejohn

ORRY, guys. I really don't want to get into the great paternity debate that's been raging on this page between my good friends Ros and Bea. It'd bring back to many natiful and distracts. too many painful and distress-ing and sad and miserable memories. There. I know when I'm choked because I get carried away and then I use one helluva lot of "ands", and it's something I just can't stop. So I'm stopping now, okay? And just one more thing. I've been through the mar-riage and parenthood tread-mill, my god I have. My marriage to a man — let's just call him S\*\*\* — gave me a unique

him S\*\*\* — gave me a unique insight into the effect of the masculine role model on the nuclear family. And what I saw I didn't particularly like. Steve would come back from his office at the end of a day in which I'd been up to my neck in shopping and doing things around the house and catching up on reading and my "Fluffy the Dolphin" children's books — strongly tipped for the Orange prize next year, I hear — and he would expect me to act the "little lady", saying "in", asking him how he'd got on, glving him a kiss, all the clichés. Sorry, I said, I'm not Wendy Craig, nor will I ever be.

Craig, nor will I ever be.
Things came to a head after
he refused point blank to do
the washing up, if you can
believe it. I'd just had 15 members of my Women's Studies Circle around for a rehearsed reading of a little-known Sylvia Plath one-act drama, and frankly I was wiped out. So when Steve came back from the office it seemed obvious to ask him to wash the dishes and scrape the remains of our vegetarian lassgne off the baking tray. But would he do it? Would he heck! In the end, I couldn't take life with such an unreconstructed sexist any more, so I moved out the next day. Or rather I had the locks changed, and he moved out. He's now married to a real-life "little lady" who busies her little self running a

So that's why Bel's not going to follow Ros and Bea. Too much burt. Too much pain. The healing process ain't over yet. And in fairness to my ex. I don't want to go public with what a deep-seated misogynistic slob he was. No, I don't want to personalise what should be a serious wide-rang-ing socio-political debate by revealing intensely private details of our marriage. Like the way he'd bleat "You must do what you think best, but if you happy to give it" all the time,

rather than facing up to any issue. Or how he pigeon-holed me as a woman by insisting on letting me have the "final But let's not drag S\*\*\* into it. I'm much happler than him these days, however much he tries to convince our friends otherwise. And the last thing I want to do is add to his general bitterness by patronising

eral bitterness by patronising him in print, poor lamb.
So let's get right away from the subject of my marriage. Let's broaden the issue to a fuller discussion of the new historic settlement between genders and generations and a larger consideration of the bitter structure by ment to purse struggle by men to purge women from the public do-main and to keep them in a main and to keep them in a confined space. If I can speak personally for a moment, Steve was never comfortable with the idea of a wife who believed in her right to exarcarving out a life of my own in Morocco, say, or Venice, with a friend or friends, Steve would treat my quest for free-dom as a crime. "Why can't I come too?" he would ask, as though I were his stone-age chattel, foresworn to M'Lud's

N the larger issue of child-rearing, I always resented the male stereotype of "father" that Sieve brought to his self-appointed role, "Can't you sometimes just be a perent, not a father?" I once asked him when I saw him kicking him when I saw him kicking a ball back to our daughter Mo. I felt exasperated that a guy who viewed himself as in some way "enlightened" should attempt to force his wholly masculine world-view - symbolised by the football — on to our daughter. It was as if in some way he wanted

image of himself.
Being the male of the species, he refused to take issue with me. Instead, he went with me to the kitchen where, minutes later, I found them baking a cake together.
"This I cannot believe," I aighed. "So you want to force Mo into the male-approved Victorian gender-role of servant/cook, do you? Talk about the patriarchal soci-sty!" It was as if in some way he wanted her to comb his idea of a "woman". wanted her to comform to

· Half an hour later, after my S\*\*\*\* playing a game of draughts together. "Isn't it about time we stopped forcing our children into battlegames inspired by male views of dominance through aggres-sion?" I said. It was as if he wanted her to be a general, annihilating the opposition rather than empathising with them. 'Nuff said. And so the great gender debate rolls on. But believe me, we'll be doing ourselves a favour as women what you think best, but if you if we keep personalities out of want my advice I'd be only too it. A slanging match is just

# Paddy in the middle

Tony Blair claims to lead a party
of the centre: so why, demands
Paddy Ashdown, is he so

decide that, since they dare and surviving about two, they cannot say anything about two, alm's poor and disposeessed, then "stakeholderism" is indeed a meaningless slogan. You do not have to be on the bond of trust on tax with the left to understand that allow when, no doubt seeking to

keen on fuzzy policies - and so quick to silence any talk of tax?

phorically. Tony Blair went biodically. To the United States, and, as with Singapore, used a foreign trip to push his party at home further down the road he wants to lead it.

I have been on holiday in France, where I read Roy Jenkins's book on Gladstone, and

arms a book on Glasstone, and thought about the similarities between today and the turbu-lent 1850s, when politics re-shaped itself into a modern

Only John Major, true to his style, has stayed rooted to the spot in the face of the oncom-ing catastrophe for his party. But even he is now being urged by his tormentors to urged by his termenters to take the train further down the branch line to nowhere, re-opened by the right after last week's byelection disaster. They have probably already bought his ticket and are preparing to bundle him. uncomplaining, into the sealed carriage they have reserved for him, just as they

have done so many times before.
For fire Liberal Democrats, my trip: to France was no more than just that We will not be indulging in the pres-ent craze for political walkabout. We are staying just where we are and where we

OR politicians, Easter seems a good trace seems a good time trying to struggle on to our ground, so much the better for that. The more people are arguing our ideas, adopting to Inited States, and, as more chance Liberal Demo-crats will have to ensure that

Britain gets the policies that
Britain needs.
Tony Blair announces that
Labour is now a party of the
centre. I welcome that Britain
has too often been torn apart by the dogmas of left and right Sensible voters in May will, of course, pay rather will, of course, pay rather more attention to what the Labour Party does in power in the town hall than to what its leaders say in faraway press conferences in the struggle for power in Whitehall. The two are often miles apart.

It is up to Labour how they describe the market apart.

describe themselves. Labels are labels. Though important, they are not sufficient. "Centre" is as centre does. It is no place for fuzziness or easy op-tions. Or for what Clare Short referred to this week as "a conspiracy to stop people talk-ing honestly". The centre is the toughest ground in politics. It requires you to be more specific about your policies; clearer about your aims and ambitions; more honest about

people, then last week was not a particularly good start. The Liberal Democrats are our lost communities to not a high-tax party. We op-pose punitive rates of tex-ation. But we will be an hon-est tax party. We are determined to be clear about what we want and how we pay deepen, will lead to increased crime and instability and,

for it — even if that means, for instance, having to put a penny on income tax for education. The received wisdom is that this will damage us. But I have a hunch that people want the truth about tax more than they want reassuring promises they can't believe in. promises they can't believe in.

I am much less happy, however, about the assumption which is now, it seems, shared by Labour and Tory that the politics of the middle ground is the same as the politics of the middle class. To start with, Liberal Democrats reject the rollitics of class whether the politics of class, whether it's middle, upper or working.
One of the most corrosive legacies of Thatcherism was the price it encouraged people to

honesty — or both. Any new partnership, whether among politicians or between politicians and votpay in order to pursue middle-class dreams, just when she was in the process of destroyers, will need firmer founda-tions than that; if it is to party is struggling towards a new shape because he wills it, John Major's is doing the same even though he wills it ing them. It is sad to see some people struggling through the same turture in the name of What this illustrates is perhaps the most interesting fact

about British politics today.

That the two old parties can no longer contain the oppos-ing forces now at war within

them. The courageous migra-tions of Emma Nicholson and

Alan Howarth speak as elo-

quently for this in the Tory

this. The Thatcher-Major legacy is a painful one for people on middle incomes; but we will not solve what you can promise and the problems of the middle classes if we try to solve them about tax. For the issue of tax have a stake in tackling the where we are and where we have always been. We don't lies at the heart of the crists of exclusion, desolation and the sullen but have to shift our positions because they have become emberrassing. Or abandon our that Labour has said it will have because they have become emberrassing. Or abandon our this in the Tory Party as the sullen but thoughout the first the crists of exclusion, desolation and exclusion, desolation and the sullen but thoughout the first the said of the crists of exclusion, desolation and the sullen but thoughout the crists of exclusion, desolation and the sullen but the crists of exclusion, desolation and the sullen but the crists of exclusion and exclusion and exclusion and the sullen but the crists of exclusion and the crists of exclusion and the crists of exclusion and exclusion are exclusion. barrassing. Or abandon our not promise what it cannot government comes to power Labour.

the journeys started this Eastern beliefs because they have be deliver is good. But it is not because it has newly captured be more Tory migrations be next.

left to understand that allow-ing the chasm of poverty to widen, and the desolation of be no defections this side of part of that sentence is more important for the future of British politics than the exeventually, to the irreparable destruction of the fabric of our society — from which, inci-dentally, it is the "middle class" who will suffer most. If the parties of progress become so obsessed with the politics of the middle class that the disconnected account itable, the post-election battle for the soul of the Tories is won by the right, then Mr Temple-Morris and others of his quality will have to find a home more congenial to their long-held views.

that the dispossessed cannot even look to us for hope, then Here is a more simple way of putting this. I probably have more in common with the politics of Peter Templeto whom will they look next? We are, of course, back to tax. Redistributing wealth is not, of itself, the solution. But Morris and, I suspect. Ken Clarke than either of them redistributing opportunities is — and that cannot be done has with many of their cabi-net colleagues. And Tony without financial implica-tions. To dodge that, or to seek to hide it, is to abandon either Blair and Gordon Brown probably have more in common with me than they have with many on the left of their the hope of rescuing Britain's underclass, or the pretence of own party. In the end, these facts must assert themselves on the political framework of

> lis's rooms in London, the old Liberal Party was formed. That event ended a period of confusion and shifting alli-ances that had characterised British politics since the Tory split over the Corn Laws 13 years earlier. Once again, Britain's party structure is out of kilter with the dividing lines that dominate political debate - divisions, incidentally, which fit unestily into

old left-right terms. It is time for that shape to change again. And when it does, the Liberal Democrats are determined once again to be the fixed point at the centre of that process. All of which makes it certain that

### URGENT APPEAL **CRISIS IN** LEBANON

Within minutes of the shelling of the U.N. base near Tyre in Southern Lebanon, the Red Cross was on the spot providing vital medical aid to the injured.

The Red Cross is currently the only international aid agency providing assistance throughout Southern Lebanon. We are distributing supplies to medical centres and clinics. We are giving mattresses, blankets and vital food aid to people who have left everything behind. And we are deploying 32 ambulances and 25 mobile Red Cross clinics to the areas of greatest need.

Now we need your help to ensure aid continues to reach those who need it desperately. Please give as much as you can today. Your donation can save lives. Thank you.

Please call now with your credit card donation



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## A sense of adventure

ERKELY Mather, when war broke out and a fee for that time to play the who has died aged lieutenant-colonel and vet- part but the result was a turalthough he had had some stories published in magadium that he made his name. Encouraged by Donald Wilson. BBC Television's script supremo, to think in terms of half-hour series — then the cause his first novel. The common currency of televi-sion fiction — Mather came up with a succession of popular low-life police formats of which Tales From Soho (1956) is probably the best-remem-bered. He also wrote single plays, including Mid-Level, the first true television play

dept — the exotic, far-flung adventure story.
As he was still a serving officer he used a nom de plume constructed, characteristically, from a tradesman's sign he had spotted in India — for a Berkeley Grill which lacked its final "e". His real name was John Evan Weston-Davies. Born in Wales, he was brought up in Australia after was a boy. After grammar school and military service. he enrolled as a medical stu-dent at Sydney University but in conscious or unconscious emulation of many a John

on ITV, two days after the ser-vice was launched in Septem-

ber, 1955. It was a racy politi-cal thriller set in Hong Kong, which represented another genre at which Mather was

tramp steamer.

He arrived in Britain in the depths of the slump. Unable to find work, he enlisted in the Royal Horse Artillery. later tician facing the exposure of Mather), writer and sold large and s transferring to the Indian an old disgrace. Jack Haw-Army, He was a staff-sergeant kins was paid an astronomic

Buchan or Dennis Wheatley hero, worked his way around

eran of campaigns in Persia, Iraq and Burma by the time it ended. After Indian independence, he was offered a British army regular commission. He was an acting brigadier in Cyprus when in 1959 he decided to retire, partly because

Achilles Affair, was set in Cy-prus during the Eoka troubles which were still rumbling on. and the authorities might not have been pleased were the author revealed as a serving local commander. He settled with his wife Kay

and their two sons in a large Sussex house. Mather was now 50, a stocky, forthright, amusing man still sporting

amusing man still sporting the stage villain;'s moustache which had earned him his army nickname of "Jasper".

Donald Wilson remembers his generosity. When Wilson happened to say that he planned to take his family touring in Spain. Mather insisted that they borrow his caravan and tow-car. "It was some sort of Mercedes hattle. some sort of Mercedes battle-wagon with this great trailer hitched on behind. He gave me half an hour's instruction on how to handle it, and off

In 1963 Berkely Mather was caught in a fad for Anglo-American co-production. The idea was that American money would allow more ex-pensive stars and locations for British projects. In return, the American partners could impose the trusty dramatic conventions they believed

picture, strange bursts of music and inevitable courtroom scenes," I'm afraid I wrote in the Sunday Tele-graph, "the resemblance to a bad old English movie was uncanny. You kept expecting Clive Brook, Pat Roc or even Jack Hawkins to make an ap

now involved in good, new English movies. He re-wrote the screenplay of the first James Bond film, Dr No. and is credited with introducing the element of self-parody which became one of the canon's hallmarks, though it and From Russia with Lave were sober and realistic by comparison with the daft ex-

His novels mattered most to Mather. He published 15 and served a term as chairman of the Crime Writers Association. He is mourned not only for himself but for the tradi-tion of the atmospheric ad-venture story which, along with Victor Canning, Gavin Lyall, Lionel Davidson, Kenneth Royce and others, he helped maintain. They had all been in strange places in the war and seen things they could draw on, Royce ex-plains. When they ran out, you would set off travelling again to find more. Nowadays that's all gone. You sit at home, watch TV and write about serial murder."

(Berkely



Berkely Mather . . . writing himself out of the army

Richard Hill

### Life study of Sudan

N 1927 Richard Hill, who has died aged 95, joined the Sudan civil service and of retired Sudan officials and others which developed into was posted to the Stidan government railways. It was the beginning of a life dedicated to the study of that country, which produced a string of books, took him to Africa and north America as a lecturer and resulted in Durham University's Sudaness archive, a collection of unique distinction and an in-

dispensible resource on the history of the modern Sudan. His book, A Bibliography Of The Sudan was published in 1939, and remains a reference work to this day. And in 1946 he retired from the railways and became a senior history lecturer at the then Universi-ty College of Khartoum. From 1949 until his 1966 retirement he was a lecturer in modern Near Rastern history at Dur-

In 1951 he published another key reference work A
Biographical Dictionary Of
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. It gathered nearly 2,000 lives of people connected with the

early 20th centuries.

Right years later came
Egypt And The Sudan 18201881. It was the first attempt ent an independent and bal-anced view of Egyptian rule in the Sudan, and he learned Ottoman Turkish to research

In 1965, just before leaving the university he published a monograph, Sudan Trans-port, drawing on his own railway experience, and Slatin Pasha, a biography of a col-ourful Austrian who served successive Sudanese regimes from 1878 to 1914. the Archive.

Between 1966 and 1969 he taught at the University of

California, Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, and Ni-These included, in 1970, On The Frontiers Of Islam, two manuscripts concerning the Sudan under Turco-Egyptian rule from 1822-1843 and, in 1984, The Sudan Memoirs of Carl Christian Giegler Pasha, 1873-1863, published under the auspices of the British Academy in 1884.

emy in 1984.

For his final book, published last year, in collaboration with his friend, Peter Hogg, he turned to the Sudanese themselves. A Black ion sent by the Vicercy of Egypt to take part in Napo-leon III's Mexican adventure. In these books he shows a warm, human sympathy aris

convictions.

Richard Hill and his wife its copious information about Juliana, are survived by their Sudanese, Egyptians and family of four daughters. Un-Europeans of the 19th and assuming and courteous he Juliana, are survived by their fection and respect, by friends of many nationalities. In the year of his 80th birthday some of them contributed to Modernisation In The Sudan, essays in his honour edited by M W Daly. The Republic of the Sudan awarded him its Gold Medal of Science, Letters and Arts in 1960, and the University of Durham, con-ferred an honorary Doctorate

Richard Lealie Hill, historian, born March 21 1901; died Febru-ary 18, 1996

## Humane and perceptive physicist

theoretical physics, chal-lenged the assumptions of solid state physicists. Szigeti who has died aged 88 showed tals was an electric field effect was fundamentally wrong. This work, carried out ini-tially at Bristol University under the umbrells of - if not directly with — the Nobel laureate Cecil Powell, and then at Liverpool University with Herbert Fröhlich. emerced in the textbooks as the "Szigeti relations".

Now universally accepted, these link the elastic, vibrational and dielectric charac-teristics of all solid ionic crystals and helped to underpin the platform on which later waves of research into solid particular, they point to the crucial importance of the pat-terns of phonon propagation and ionic deformation within crystals. Although Walter Frohlich was noted to be "difwell with him and unmasked mations that occur during vi-

hrational (phonon) propaga-tion in long chain molecules. This set up vibrations which continue to be felt in research. For example they are relevant to understanding the role of phonon propaga that create such unexpected phenomena as warm super-conductors. Professor Szigen's associates at Reading University, where he worked nor establishment honours

fashioned gentlemen of theoretical work was his clear and very early recogni-tion that the electronic behavtour of a crystal lattice results from the deformation of ions

then confirmed experimentally, distinguishes him as an unusually perceptive physi-cist. Working with Roy Leigh at Reading, he showed that prevailing theories of infra-red absorption in crystals, thought to be dependent on the presence of an electronic charge arising from the introduction of an element from an unrelated part of the periodic table, was without founda-tion. Szigeti went on to deexplains this phenomenon.

Szigeti worked quietly, with great precision of thought and elegant mathematics

Bela Szigeti ... he sought

\*ROM the late 1948s to from 1962 until his retirement | However, he was a scientist | fascinated by mathematics | in music and the arts, which the 1960s, Bela Szigeti, in 1977, emphasise that the who sought neither personal and physics but his first he shared with his wife Lois one of the quiet old crucial element of Szigeti's aggrandisement nor established the crucial element of lishment honours. He worked slowly, quietly, with great precision of thought and elegant mathematics, and pub-lished sparingly. Although always questioning received assumptions and seeking

In his courtesy Szigeti had was a man whose ideals, con-much in common with his fel-science and inclinations low physicist and countryman Eugene Wigner, How-ever, unlike Wigner, Leo Szilard and others in the clus-ter of brilliant Hungarian physicists who fled from the Nazis to achieve public fame

istry, a subject in which he was concerned with new electronic theories but not directly with the "new" heavy elements, then fascinating nuclear chemists and physicists.
As a practising Catholic with This observation, which he deep understanding, he a breadth of cultural as well hen confirmed experimen sought to avoid controversy. science and inclinations might, in any case, have led him to avoid involvement

> with nuclear weapons. Born the grandson of a judge, and the younger son of an old land-owning family in the élitist but cultured pre-Great War Hungary be was in the Anglo-American wartime nuclear weapon programmes Szigeti was not Jewish, nor was he a nuclear
> physicist.
> From his schooldays he was
>
> Great War Hungary he was
> proud of his classical education, with its emphasis on languages and mathematics, and
> of his cultural background.

his last years in Hungary. In 1945, with spectroscopy as the bridge carrying him into the oretical physics, he joined the HH Wills Physics Laboratory at Bristol and his career as scientist of stature began to evolve. Within three years he was invited to join Fröhlich at Liverpool where he set his stamp on the textbooks. Yet he never pushed for promo-tion. In 1965 he joined Read-ing University as lecturer, although he then progressed quickly to become reader then professor in theoretica physics. He was distinguished by his great care, by his gentle humanity and by his profound quality of mind.

**Anthony Tucker** Bela Szigeti, theoretical physicist, born August 2, 1912; died March 17, 1996.

After graduating at Buda-pest, Szigeti went to Zurich where, in 1938, he gained his doctorate in physical chemis-try. He went back to Hungary.

formally as a refugee scholar.

His brother, who remained in

Hungary, was killed during

During his first two years in England, Szigeti worked at

St Bartholemew's Hospital

and then at Cambridge inves-tigating possible uses of spec-troscopy in clinical medicine.

In 1941, along with many engi-neers and scientists, he was

swept into war production

He seldom spoke of this war-time period in England or of

the war.

Rachel Labouchere

### View from the Ironbridge

ACHEL Labouchere, the style of the 1850s, illustrating a Victorian ironmaster's home. The house has been open to the public for 10 years. Later, Lady Labous president for 16 years. As a descendant of Abraham ruin of Dale House, the ad-Darby, the Quaker ironmas-ter who in 1709 first smelted iron ore with coke and thus selped precipitate the industrial revolution, she felt inti-mately connected to Shropshire and to its industrial

Rachel Hamilton-Russell was an only child born into a wealthy Shropshire family related not only to the Darbys of Coalbrookdale but fellow local industrialists the Wol-

Rachel Labouchere received no formal education and plans to study at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, were never realised. She worked at the Admiralty during the war where she met her husband, George Labouchere. They married in 1943 and after the foreign office. Rachel accompanied him

on his overseas postings on the understanding that after his retirement they would return to her native Shropshire. In 1966 they moved into Dudmaston which she inher-

Dudmaston which she inherited from her uncle.

There she became immersed in local and family history. She was instrumental in buying Rosehill, an early Darby family home. It was given to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, endowed by her, restored and furnished in

joining, and earlier, Darby family home, built for Abra-ham Darby I but never occupied by him. Currently being restored, it will house more Darby family possessions do-nated by Lady Labouchere and so form an important part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. She took an active part in the maintenance and

Lady Labouchers was also custodism of Coalbrookdale Company and family papers, records and diaries which she made available to researchers. She used them herself in *The Diaries of* Abiah Darby (1713-93) and Deborah Darby (1748-1810). She thought of her ancestors as real people, indeed friends. She was an accomplished botanical artist and, latterly,

administration of both

author of two published works, both based on original diaries and other contemporary accounts extracted from the family papers. For those works, and other historical research, she was awarded an honorary LLD by Birming ham University in 1993.

Denis Roberts Rachel Katherine Hamilton-Russell (Lady Labouchere), born August 31, 1908; died March 22, 1996 Birthdays .........

Sue Arrowsmith, professor of law, University of Wales, 34; William Baillie, painter, 73; Sue Barker, tennis pisyer, sports commentator, 40; Harold (Dickie) Bird, Test umpire, 63; Antonio Carluccio, restaurateur. 59; Adrian Coles, director-general, Building Societies Association, 42; Tim Curry, actor, 50; Sir Cyril English, educationist, 83; Trevor Francis, football manager 42 Prof Sir John Horlock, University, 68; Margo Mac-Donald, Scottish Nationalist, broadcaster, 52; Dudley Moore, actor, pianist, 61: Murray Perahla, pianist, 49; Richard Phelps, pentathlete, signer, 47; Alan Price, rock singer, bandleader, 54; Mi-chel Roux, chef de cuisine, 55: Wilf Stevenson, director British Film Institute, 49; Ruby Wax, comedienne, 43.

Death Notices

Czerchoslovzkie, John of Totte London. A charished son to Novel London. A charished son to Novel the late for, a much loved partner to dear brother to Ruth and prother-hoper. Funstral Service on Monday April where family and irretus are solid to model at Swamsea Cremet Sand. No Species by this own a Californ, No Species by this own a Californ, No Species by the own to Californ Services of I for, Swamsea, tel: 07792 771569.

Woolwich

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A SECTION AND ASSESSMENT

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The state of the s

### **Kissing babies**

**EVERY PERSON you meet is** on investment in your future. Whether it's a factory tour, a trade show or country fair. meeting the public face-toface is important not only to the person you're meeting. but also to those watching your interaction — perhaps via television. Both live and pro-recorded, you must appear to be the kind of person the people want to see; confident, strong and positive.

Not everyone is born with a love for meeting new people. Every politician without this love, should work hard at developing this important com-

the proper preparation and counters can be enjoyable and immensely profitable. A successful head-on style should be the goal of every politician.

Have A Game Plan... Pre-

pare a message that you want your audience to retain. Remember that to retain a message, an audience must believe it to be relevant to them, and they must hear it more than once. In fact, the advertising world believes a message must be received seven times before an audience will remember it . . . • Smile . . . Some believe you

can say practically anything at all, as long as you smile. However, it must be the right smile ... If a smile is completely inappropriate — such as a discussion of layoffs — simply raise the muscles in your face... This will give you the appearance of being

open to communication and warm in demeanour.

Hand contact. Shaking hands is an art. With a handshake, you touch your audi-ence physically for the first time. This tactile presenta-

tion will be remembered. Make sure your handshake is not remembered for being wet. limp, or insincere. First, open your hand as wide as it will go. Then, when you make contact with the shakee, put your hand into theirs as far as possible. This should bring you into web-to-web contact with the other person. Close your hand firmly, but don't **JFKaos** squeeze too tightly, and

contact Posture. Upon entering the room, pause in the doorway and, standing tall and erect. look out at the people. Don't tilt your head to either side; keep both your head and shoulders in a neutral position. Think about how much you're going to enjoy talking with everyone. Appear strong, confident and posi-

shake twice while making e

When standing still, take a stance with your feet about shoulder width apart for good balance and grounding. Be comfortable with your hands; practice gestures until you are satisfied with them. From Face to Face Compaigning: How to Work a Room, by

Political Adviser Laura Peck in the April edition of Cam-paigns & Elections. These notes should be kept close to hand during any election, and taken to any situation where ar encounter with a politician is likely. Many thanks to Dan

THE execution of JFK created Chaos Theory. Before that, there was Chaos, but no Theory. The President's Head Had Never Exploded. Lincoln was shot in the head, but posed serenely in his death photo (as he did in his life photos): "Now he belongs to the ages."

But there were no soothing words at the death of JFK just hysteria. The President's Plane Is Missing was a smallpotatoes Nuclear Threat book, then movie, of the Kennedy administration. But The president's brain is miss ing became the subsequent cry, and 19 months later, Harvey Cox began the God is dead movement at Harvard Divinity school, If the President had no brain, God had no

existence. And The Beatles arrived, to prove that the adults no longer ruled the world. Children became dults, the Prez had no brain LBJ (the new Leader) pulled the ears of his dogs on TV. The Dharma was lost, Chaos

Sparrow, "the mastermind be hind the East Village militia", contemplates JFKaos Theory in the specially chaotic issue of the quarterly zine, **Fringe** Ware Review.

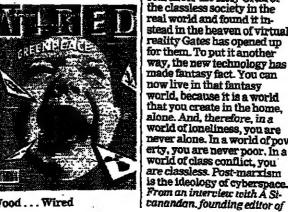
### Book futures

TRESS DIED in vain to bring us Nicholas Negroponte's [article] The Future Of The Book. Read it again, carefully, and tell me if any of his insights are missing from this edited version: Books were invented in

1496 by a guy named Aldo in Venice. Things that looked a lot like books before that must have been something else. People like to turn pages. Speech and writing use words. Paper costs money, so books will be irrelevant in 25 vears. But they are better than digital appliances. You

can stand on a book, not a laptop. Some guy at Nick's Media Lab wants to bind sper-thin electronic scree into the shape of a book and download words on to them. There is not yet a way to do this, but "this is the likely future of books". Books with small press runs reach fewer people than books with big press runs. Like trade books

every Web site on Earth will find an audience. "Some of us in research are working really hard to make them feel



thing you can happily curl up with or take to the loo." My books do this aiready Nick, you need a rest. Ask the

good and be readable — some-

nice people at Wired for some time off. Mike Gordon brings some clarity to the great Nature of Read-ing debate in his letter to

### Cybermarxists

AS FOR the post-marxists. they have given up on the search for the Holy Grail of the classless society in the real world and found it instead in the heaven of virtual reality Gates has opened up for them. To put it another way, the new technology has made fantasy fact. You can now live in that fantasy world, because it is a world that you create in the home, alone. And, therefore, in a world of loneliness, you are never alone. In a world of poverty, you are never poor. In a world of class conflict, you are classless. Post-marxism is the ideology of cyberspace

the journal Race & Class

#### No solutions ILOVE this summer's

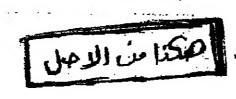
long, clingy button-through dresses, but I worry about my rather well-rounded hips. What's the solution? I want to buy a pretty cotton bikini with enough Lycra in it to stop it becoming baggy around the bottom when wet. Where should I

 My first summer purchase is always a new handbag. I tend to carry the same one every day so I need to have something that works with almost everything. Can you

Some examples of the sort of questions Vogue's style counsel has to put up with.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdawaguardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366 Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Parringdon Road, London EC1R SER.

**Dan Glaister** 



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

# FinanceGuardian

# German cut boosts pound

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

HE Bundesbank yesterday enhanced its reputation for springing surprises on the financial rates to a record low in an attempt to revive the recession-hit German economy. Central banks in Denmark Belgium and the Netherlands swiftly followed the announcement in Frankfurt and last night the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdes sus, urged the French government to follow suit. Analysts said the decision by the Bundesbank to shave half a point off the discount and Lombard rates, to 25 per cent and 4.5 per cent, would boost the German economy by weakening the over-valued

They added that the move should lead to a stronger pound, cutting the costs of UK imports and boosting the chances of the Chanceller, Kenneth Clarke, trimming Latest figures from the get of 2.5 per cent by the end

Britain's manufacturers left behind by buoyant service sector

Office for National Statistics

yesterday showed the annual inflation rate unchanged at 2.7 per cent last month, with dearer food, leisure goods and

house prices offset by cheaper petrol.

The underlying inflation rate — excluding mortgages — also remained steady last

month at 2.9 per cent, slightly above the Government's tar-

THE gulf between the demand had belped firms to shown in the latest official UK's buoyant service clear their stockpiles, add-sector and its hard-pressed ing that there was no need manufacturers widened for fresh reductions in insharply in the first three months of 1996, writes Larry Elliott.

terest rates.

Its quarterly survey of more than 7.500 companies

orders, investment and job | and financial services.

of this partiament. Factory the leisure goods sector, the gate prices — a good guide to inflationary pressures — have been weak in recent months, and some analysis Britain's inflation rate of 27 have been weak in recent months, and some analysts said an increase in the value of starling would remiores the trend. However, the ONS data sug-

gested that retailers were try-ing to take advantage of the rebound in consumer condrepound in consumer confidence to push up prices. In that yesterday's discount rate

According to the British Chambers of Commerce, while factories suffered from an overhang of tosold goods and weakening export markets, rising consumer demand boosted orders investment and inh.

prospects in services.

However, manufacturing growth was at its weakest manufacturing would be hauled out of the doldrums once stronger high street recent slowdown in activity against higher inflation.

cut to a level last seen in the aftermath of the 1987 global stock market crash, posed no threat to German inflation per cent is the fourth highest of the 15 nations in the European Union and three times the German level of 0.9 per cent. Hans Tietmeyer,

pected slowdown in the expansion of the money supply. In March, the money supply grew at an annual rate of 12. per cent, a deceleration from February's 12.8 per cent but

lems had been concentrated among larger firms, which were seeing sales and

"Weak manufacturing growth may be a result of an over-estimation of de-

mand in previous quarters, with retailers and those manufacturers higher up in the supply chain reducing

their orders as they deplete

target for the year. The Bundesbank "assumes that the current strong moneysupply expansion will slow down in the near future," the central bank said in a stateoverstated by current

German finance minister German finance minister
Theo Weigel said chances for
stronger growth were better
in the wake of the cut, saying
it would "support the government in its goal of strengtening the forces of growth in
Germany".

Strenger growth would are

Stronger growth would en-hance Mr Waigel's efforts to curb the German budget deficit and keep the country on track for European monetary union in 1999. France, too, is anxious to see stronger Ger-man growth in the hope that it will help the rest of conti-nental Europe in the run-up to the deadline for signing up to a single currency in early

1998. Mr Camdessus called the Bundesbank cut in interest rates "good news" and "a measure which we considered as particulary desirable in view of the sluggish economic developments in Germany

### Clarke works on reinforcing image



Edited by Patrick Donovan

TS hardly surprising that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke is making much of his de termination to head off the Tory Right's demands for a tax-cutting bonanza in advance of the next election. By squaring up to the likes of John Redwood, he is clearly attempting to reinforce ar in age as a responsible guardian of the Treasury purse-strings, a man who is not pre-pared to jeopardise public finances for short-term politi-

cal gain.
The reality, however, is that the Chancellor has no expectation of tax cuts be-cause of the continued ining. Yesterday, the grim outlook became even clearer as the Government an-nounced a total borrowing requirement for 1985-96 of \$32.2 billion. This was \$3.2 billion more than the Chancallor predicted for the PSBR in the November Budget. All this reflects falls in VAT receipts, with revenue hit by a combination of sluggish high street sales, the burgeoning black market and reluc-

tance of many companies to stump up corporation tex. This is partially offset by improvements on the monetary side of the equation. Yesterday's inflation figures are unchanged at 2.7 per cent. And the encouraging outlook here should be reinforced by the German interest rate cut which has helped prop up the pound. Furthermore, the Bundesbank's half-point cut (of which more below) could give scope for another cut in British interest rates.

And this is as good a way to try to win around the Middle England Voter.

### German bite

S IF on cue, the Bundes-bank has slashed its in-terest rates to their lowest level for nine years just a day after the publication of International Monetary Fund's grim prognosis for the

German economy.

The official explanation for the move to cut 50 basis points off the discount rate has been the improvement in two key monetary indicators. First, the lid seems to have been clam-ped on inflation, which held steady at an impressive 1.4 per cent during March. And slowdown in the M3 money supply figures, the main trigger for changing rates. Figures have fallen to 12.8 per cent, although this is still far beyond the bank's 4 per cent to 7 per cent target for the year. But the bank unconvinc-

ingly explains this away as a temporary blip, with figures artificially swollen by private sector lending.

On fundamentals, the On fundamentals, the Bundesbank would easily have got away with a quarter point cut. And this would have far less a destabilising effect on the markets.

Nevertheless, the decision to go for a half-point cut suggests that the Bundesbank wants to be even to be lack in

wants to be seen to be back in the driving seat. It needs to bolster its credibility at a time when unemployment has accelerated past 4 million and forecast economic growth

And it is surely no coinci move at such a nivotal time in both the country's wage negotiation round and the current

#### Chic figures

F SHARE prices are any measure of management of the Laura Ashley frock and fabric firm just seven months ago, shares were nudging 60p. Yesterday, they touched a nine-year high at 177p, as the company announced that last year's £30.6 million loss has been turned around to a £10.3

million profit.

This does not mean there has been a buying boom for Laura Ashley frocks — turnover is up by just 7 per cent.

The bounceback reflects the way Me. bygreen has been way Ms lverson has been slashing away at the corpo-rate fat which has for so long made this such a badly-managed company. Every part of the business is in the process of being shaken up by Ms ited with turning around Mothercare. The company intrade-mark floral fabrics. But Ms Iverson is clearly looking with a lot more emphasis on trying to attract the fashion-

prospect are the hints she drops for relocating production. The subtext for this is other British retailers, can boost margins by contracting out manufacturing to cheaper overseas producers. Main tar-get here would seem to be the

own products. Laura Ashley's share price is now fast approaching levels immediately before the Black Monday crash. That must be almost unique for a former retail "wonderstock" which came to market at the height of the eightles' boom.

which makes 80 per cent of its

### Alarm belis

ARCLAYS Bank's deci-Sion to deny new staff access to its standard ing sign of the times. The bank has become just the lat-"guaranteed pensions" to in-coming staff employees. At the rate this trend is going, It will soon be just board direccopper-bottomed provision

that Pepsi has led the way even before this year's mar-keting extravaganza and this

month's colour change to

blue. The analysis dismisses so-

failed to differentiate

Coca-Cola disputes Pepsi's

analysis, although it shows

half the sales in super-

closed the gap by four per-

Both brands have lost out to

quality own-label products

such as Sainsbury's Classic

cola. But the Britvic report

claims that such products

have stopped making inroads,

leaving Coke and Pepsi to

centage points last year.



With the Woolwich . . . One building society member looks pensive before yesterday's stormy annual meeting in London

### Woolwich chief attacked over Robinson affair

Teresa Hunte

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· Aug S

treath Mobies

Nin solubord

HE Woolwich Building Society was accused at a stormy annual general meeting yesterday of a "cover-up" over the sacking of chief executive Peter Rob-

Around 1,000 members, nearly three times the usual number, attended the meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Con-ference Centre, Westminster, vestigated by the society's ex-

Jenkins refuse to reveal de-tails about the affair because it was under investigation. Mr Robinson left the society two weeks ago after used its facilities - for exam ple, by using Woolwich gar-deners at his home. He was also accused of using society funds to buy a Range Rover

for private use. Sir Brian said the matter was being "very carefully" inthat at the root of the issue "Let me stress that the deci-

was the loss of confidence and trust on the part of the board. sion we faced was not one which any of us enjoyed having to face and certainly not to have to take. We did our best to decide in good faith, and as swiftly as the circumstance properly allowed, what members could have no couffwe believed to be in the best interests of the society."

But members were ag- Another derided the auditors

to bear chairman Sir Brian | ternal lawyers and auditors. | grieved when Sir Brian | while a faird chanted "cover | remained aftent throughout Jenkins refuse to reveal de | He said: "The board decided | refused to publish automati- | up". | the meeting was the Cheltencally the findings of the investigation, and when he con alleged irregularities might have occurred during the report and accounts.
This led one member to call

for the meeting to reject the auditors' report because

One member, Michael Ellis.

said: "What everyone here is wondering is how did this happen to an organisation as big as the Woolwich and to someone who has risen so high? Why was he appointed and then sacked after three months?

"Surely the board should take responsibility for ap-pointing him in the first place?

ham & Gloucester chief executive, Andrew Longhurst, a former sparring partner of He said that he had come to

watch the events as an ordinary member. Two members questioned whether the society should be

converting to a bank. But most were more concerned receive a full payout from the

### Co-op jibs at PIA's plan | National Power chairman

DAN ATKINSON looks at plans to issue individual contracts binding 100,000 investment salesmen to act with probity

salesmen individual contracts binding them to obey City rules were attacked as unnecessary and bureau-cratic by one of Britain's biggest insurance companies. Other firms are known to be unhappy with the proposals.
The contracts will give

supervisors powers to pursue and punish individuals who defraud the public, mis-sell ilnancial products or otherwise put their own interests before those of their clients:

Under the proposals, every investment counseller whether independent or salesmen tied to one company -will have a contract with the Personal Investment Authority, the body that polices financial services. Every employer will have to certify that it has vetted individually

The PIA chairman, Joe Palmer, said that the con- ments Board.

LANS announced yesterday to give more the focus of discipline" allowing the agency to "take direct action against individuals as

well as firms". The move will please MPs on the Treasury Select Committee, who have been urging such a step. But the Co-operative Insurance Society, whose 6,000 strong sales team is one of the largest in the country.

attacked the plan. Spokesman David Mott said it seemed "a rather bureaucratic exercise"; adding that "the industry is subjected to a tremendous amount of regulation now ... it makes you wonder where's it all going to

The country's biggest in vestment salesforce - the "men from the Pru", numbering just under 8,000 --- will not be covered by the contracts. The Prudential exercised its right not to join the PIA and is instead regulated directly by the Securities and Invest-

At present, most other investment, assurance and pen-sion companies are directly regulated by PIA and are, in turn, responsible for regulat ing their own salesmen Should a sales agent break the rules, the PIA can fine or

Under the new system. principals and managers will be vetted by the PIA and will, in turn, have to certify that they have vetted their staffs. "Failure to carry out this firm-based vetting will be a numishable offence," said the

otherwise punish only his em-

In addition, 120.008-odd principals, managers and sales agents will be given standard contracts binding them to obey the PIA's rulebook. Should they break regulations, they will be able to be punished as individuals. The PIA said that set-up

costs for the system, which would begin operating next year, would be \$200,000, with a further £700,000 for arranging the contracts. These sums will come from fee income The running costs of 2300,000 a year will come from charges to members for using the

# acts to repel Southern bid

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

ATIONAL Power yes-terday took steps to repel a potential bid from the Southern Company of Atlanta by demanding that the US utility spell out how much it would pay for National Power and how it would finance the electricity sector's biggest

With National Power facing the prospect of a bid es-timated to be worth more than £8.5 billion, the generator's chairman, John Baker, wrote to Southern to turn down a request for

further meetings. He said: "If you make a proposal to us, including the price you would be proposing to offer to our share-holders, how it is to be financed and your plans for the business, my board will then consider whether it would be in the best interests of our shareholders and the business that we should PowerGen, to take over two

request for a meeting." Although some City ob-servers believed Mr Baker

had kept the door open to talks, most read the letter to Thomas Boren, chief exentive of Southern Electric International, as an invitation to "put up or shut up". Mr Baker questioned the US firm's ability to fund a deal. Drawing attention to Southern's heavy indebtedness — estimated at £5.5 billion — Mr Baker said National Power questioned "your ability to structure

an acquisition which offers our shareholders fair value for their company". Southern's plans for an audacious bid for National Power were flushed out late on Manday after attempts to line up \$12 billion

to finance a deal leaked to the market. It said it wanted a combination of the two businesses if the British Government cleared separate attempts by National

respond positively to your | regional electricity compa-

tor were up again yester-day with London Electricshares climb 28p to 818p. There was speculation that London had extended co-operation talks with Thames Water and was considering a full merger, and counter rumours that the power company could face

National Power's standoff with the US company looks set to continue until Lang, decides whether to colas grew faster than any allow National Power to other segment of the market. take over the regional Sales were up by an eighth share just under half the power company Southern last year, and Britvic claims supermarket sales of colas. power company Southern Electric and PowerGen to merge with Midlands.

The Monopolies Commis sion is said to have cleared the bids but the US intervention is seen as making Mr Lang's task politically even more complex and

### Fizzy drink consumption spills over after hard sell

Britain last year reached record heights after the long hot summer and a marketing blitz. According to Britvic's called sport and energy drinks, saying they have annual market report, 9.6 ity picked out as favourite billion litres of soft drinks, bid target and seeing its worth £6.4 billion, were swallowed. Half of that was car-bonates, sales of which grew slightly faster than fruit markets, grocers and other retail outlets. Pepsi claims just under a fifth of this take-home market, but says it tuices and squash.

This means that 8p in every £1 spent in supermarkets buys some kind of soft drink. The growth in marketing exa bid of its own from a US penditure has seen soft utility, probably Houston. | penditure has seen soft utility, probably Houston. | most heavily-advertised gro-

cery category.

Britvic, which is the UK bottler for Pepsi, reckons that colas grew faster than any

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Germany 2,2000 Germany 2,2000 Grade 257,00 Hong Kong 11,50 India 51,58 Belgium 45.16 Canada 2.0025

Netherlands 2.4850

New Zeel2nd 2.15 Sweden 10.04 Norway 9.56 Switzerland 1765 Turkey 106,670 USA 1.4750

## IMF is accused of sabotaging plan to help poor nations

SARAH RYLE in Washington reports on aid charities' outrage at last-minute conditions for supporting rescue package

ens of the world's poorest countries has sparked an extraordinary internal etary Fund.

The IMF has backed a joint initiative with the World Bank to bail out eight to 20 highly indebted thly indebted poor entries — due to be debated by finance ministers in Washington next week.

But the fund now stands accused of throwing a span-ner in the works by adding on last-minute conditions for its

support.

Although the IMF and the World Bank have presented an officially united front on the project, there is anger that the IMF managing direc-tor. Michel Camdessus. has given private briefings which are felt to have undermined the scheme before it has reached the public arena.

Selective elements of the proposal have been flagged up in articles attributed to "a senior official at the INF" believed to be Mr Camdessus. That brought the wrath of

the IMF's executive directors
the equivalent of board governments. They are understood to have admonished Mr Camdessus.
The controversial elements

of the IMF World Bank plan. which could cost as much as \$8 billion (£5.3 billion), in-

GROUND-BREAK- would have to spend on ING attempt to reducing bilateral debt before the new facility came into the new facility came into play, and whether the IMF's established soft loan opera-

tion would be replenished. Mr Camdessus last night reignited the row by insisting that creditor governments reduce bilateral debt by as much as 90 per cent under the proposal and refinance Esaf. the IMF's soft loan operation. before the fund will agree to the plan.

A senior official source con-firmed that aid charities were right to be concerned about the IMF's role in the debate. "You could imagine that this is a Machiavellian scheme to plant a bombshell under the debate by presenting a pro-

Ald charities like Oxfam and Christian Ald want the most heavily indebted poor countries, mainly in Africa.

conditions having already signed up to the proposal.
"If it were left to the IMF it would say the problem these countries have is with their economies, not with debt." The fund has already made

t clear that it wants money for Esaf and is only prepar to sell some of its gold reserves if governments match the money raised The IMF claimed that it was dangerous to reduce gold

stocks (estimated at about \$40 billion) which might be needed to fight international needed to fight international emergencies, such as the Mexican crisis, and because selling gold to write off debt could damage the organisation's credibility.

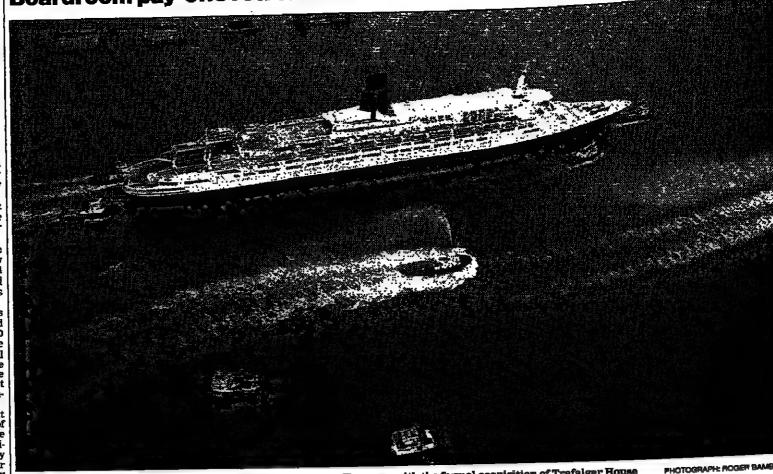
The plan would augment relief from the Paris Club of creditors and would involve countries meeting tough eligi-

countries meeting tough eligi bility criteria before they could embark on the six-year scheme. It is being broadly supported by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Some Group of Seven indus-trialised countries have already expressed concern that the Paris Club would have to shoulder most of the burden reducing bilateral debt, leav-ing just a tiny residue for the multilateral institutions, pri-marily the IMF and the World

IMF to sell gold in order to fund multilateral debt reduction directly. Christian Ald today called for the fund to sell 12 per cent of its reserves (\$4.82 billion) in order to write off debt owed by the 20

Boardroom pay-offs row fuelled as Norwegians take over ailing group



Uncharted waters . . . Cunard flagship QE2 yesterday passed to Kvaerner with the formal acquisition of Trafalger House

### Trafalgar trio make a £1m soft landing

Lisa Buckinglum and Sarah Whiteb

TRIO of Trafalgar House directors lined up to share a £1 million-plus pay-off after Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipbuilding and engineering combine yesterday took formal control of the stricken conglomerate. Added to news that fou senior directors at Reckitt & Colman are landing golden

handshakes totalling £1.5 mil-

fuel the row over pay-offs.
Two-thirds of the shipping to construction group's board quit yesterday, marking the end of an era for the Sixties' glamour stock for which Kvaerner bid £904 million. Amid denials that Kvaerner

was wielding the axe all the non-executive directors went, along with group chief execu-tive Nigel Rich, finance director David Gawler and legal di-rector James Watkins. According to Trafalgar

lion, the details are certain to House, although the execu-fuel the row over pay-offs. House, will benefit from the terms of their 12-month ser-vice contracts, the six non-executives — including chairman Simon Keswick and former Thatcher adviser Sir Charles Powell - are to get nothing

Based on their remunera-tion last year, Mr Rich — who only joined the board in August 1994 — looks set to receive some £420,000. Mr Gawler, who has served

£303,000 in compensation. Trafalgar House's three other executive directors —
John Fletcher, Peter Ward
and Alan Winter — survived
yesterday's clearout as Erik
Tonseth of Kvaerner became

chairman and chief executive of Trafalgar House. Meanwhile, Reckitt & Col-man's former head of Euro-pean operations, Colin Brows, who left after a shake-

for about £290,000. Mr Wat-kins, who joined the firm in October 1994, is heading for his remuneration for three months with the group to 2516,000.

A Reckitt & Colman spokes-man said the company had now reduced compensation payments from two years' salary to 18 months' pay.

Mr Brown, whose salary in his last full year with the

company totalled £238,000, was later appointed chief ex-ecutive of the Scholl footwear

### Laura Ashley turnaround puts spring into shares

C HARES in Laura Ash-Sley hit a nine-year high of 177p yesterday after Ann Iverson, the new chief executive, reported

and home furnishings costs. chain turned a loss of £31 million into a profit of £10.3 million over the year to January 27 — the top end of analysts' forecasts - on turnover up 4 per cent to

£336.6 million. A dividend of 0.5p was announced. The company has paid only nominal dividends since 1989 as it has struggled to cope with fi-nancial problems, includ-ing under-investment and over-optimistic expansion.

nishings company was on track for a turnaround in She and James Walsh, the finance director, intend to cut the number of lines the

chain carries, expand store that cost savings had boosted profits to their highest level since 1889.

The women's clothing plug chain and distribution that cost savings had sizes and add more US chain. Stores. They have also pledged a review of the supply chain and distribution brand through wholesal-

After seven months with the group. Ms Iverson said business her priorities were to get right and to achieve double-digit operating margins within three to four years.

Ms Iverson, who earned a reputation for turning around retail shops during her time as chief executive of the Mothercare chain, said some new ranges would be seen in the autumn with the rest in Ms Iverson said she was comfortable with the re-

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sults and believed the fur- | product modernisation nishings company was on | would see the end of the quintessentially English image of floral print dresses and fabrics that turned it from a tiny home run firm in 1953 to today's 540-store international

> She said efforts would be ing, franchising and licensing while the mail order business would be revamped and positioned

The US is to be a key area growth was also possible in

The shop expansion programme will require an outlay of £9.2 million in 1996/97. The group has obtained a £50 million line of unsecured borrowing to meet both capital expendi-ture and working capital

### News in brief

### Adtranz axes 224 as train orders dry up THE lack of orders for trains took a further toll yesterday when

Adirans announced 224 redundancies among its British workforce. The heaviest losses are at its Derby factory where just over a third of the 340 jobs are to go with component manufacturing and source parts being switched to outside suppliers.
A total of 104 jobs will go at the repair and maintenance
plants at Crewe and Chart Leacon. Address, owned by ABB and Daimler-Benz, said there had been no orders for trains for nearly three years. Last year the firm closed its York works with the loss of 750 jobs. — Chris Barrie

### £142m business best-seller

HIGH street newsagent and bookseller WH Smith has collected £142 million from the sale of its business supplies offshoot to the French group Guilbert. The deal is part of Smith's planned strategic review of its businesses. Full results of the new many for restructuring but ment's assessment of the the group's operations are expected next

WHI Smith has issued two profits warnings in just over 12 months and the new management is aware of the scrutiny of fund managers and city investors, who have said that they would be prepared to see boardroom changes if the business was not turned round. The deal makes Guilbert, which already owns Ofrex in the UK, the leading British office supplies group. The combined group will have a workforce of about 2,000 people.

### C&W absorbs £120m charge

CABLE & Wireless, the telecommunications group that is in talks on a possible £35 billion merger with British Telecom, has had to take an exceptional charge of £120 million because of problems with its businesses in central and Eastern Europe. C&W said the charge would include £76 million of goodwill and would not have any impact on its cash position.

The communication was not connected with the

The company said the move was not connected with the exploratory talks with BT. "Expectations have not been realised and we have written down the book value of these businesses to reflect the realities of the market-place," said C&W executive director Stephen Pettit. -- Reuter

#### Sales boost for SKB and Ciba DRUG and chemical companies SmithKline Beecham and Clha

reported a strong first quarter yesterday. Swiss group Ciba said sales were 2 per cent ahead of last year at SFr5,351 (£2.9 billion), which was held back by reductions in industrial product areas such as textile dyes, additives and pigments.

SmithKline Beecham, which will today launch Nicorette smok-

SmithKline Beecham, which will today launch Nicorette smoking withdrawal patches in the US, reported a 10 per cent rise in sales to £1.9 billion, with pre-tax profit 7 per cent ahead after excluding last year's exceptional gains on the sale of businesses. Prescription drugs sales reached £1.2 billion, 6 per cent up on last year, with profits ahead by 8 per cent at £341 million. Sales of Tagamet, once the company's biggest-selling product, were down by a third to just £53 million. — Roger Come

### RMC issues profits warning

RMC warned yesterday that "the most extreme and prolonged winter weather conditions for many years" would push profits for the first half appreciably below those for 1995. Reporting a rise in profit of 16.2 per cent to £329.3 million for 1995. RMC said it was unsure whether market conditions would improve sufficiently for profits to end the year level with those for 1995. — Tony May

#### **RAC and GRE move closer** THE RAC has confirmed that it is close to agreeing the sale of its

general insurance arm to Guardian Royal Exchange. The merger yould make Guardian Direct the fourth largest direct insurer in the country with around five million motor and household policies. The deal will also give GRE access to the RAC's database of six million members.

A spokesman for RAC Insurance Services, which has 400 employees mostly based at its Hitchin telephone-broking office, said redundancies could not be ruled out. The sale could trigger further consolidation in the general insurance market where motor and home premiums have been falling—Ian Wylie

### 65 Tories back debt motion

SIXTY-five Conservative MPs are among 240 to have signed a motion supporting Labour's policy to introduce a statutory right for creditors to charge interest on overdue commercial debts. The motion, a device used to garner support, will not be debated. But Barbara Roche, Labour's small firms minister, said: "It is simply not right that large firms and government departments use small business as a source of free credit by paying bills late, putting small firms out of business and preventing others from grow ing." -- Celia Weston

### **Endless sales stopped** to lose taint of failure

### Outlook

Tonv Mav

RIAN McGowan is ready to quit as chair-man of House of Fraser if John Colman, his new chief executive officer, fails to turn round the ailing department Many City observers want-ed Mr McGowan to go last

month alongside Andrew Jennings, the previous CEO, who Mr McGowan says had lost the confidence of investors and non-executive directors. Mr McGowan stayed on because he cannot stand fallure, not because he needed the money. A multi-millionaire. he had retired from corporate life but was lured back by the House of Freser's former owners, the Al Fayeds, to float the group's 56 stores on the Stock Exchange two years,

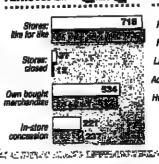
liams Holdings by buying up industrial companies and returning them to profit, and is the first to admit that he is no

retail guru. The 100,000 small investors who bought shares at the 180p flotation price have seen them dip to 147p. Although the shares have rallied, they stood at only 173p yesterday. Over the same period, share-holders have seen profits fall from £34.5 million in 1994 to

again yesterday £14.5 million. Mr McGowan has been running the store personally for the past five weeks and is keen to hand over to Mr Col-man on Monday week. But he has spent time talking to key nanagers in small groups. He concluded that the

store's seemingly endless sales promotions were counter-productive and should be restricted to two annual sales with two mid-

Touse of Fraser Share price 1780 A +3p THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH 10,000 Turnover 2m 1995 1996 Category sales 4



be phased out. He already knew about the poor stock control and mer-chandising which had lum-

bered the group with £21 million of old-fashioned stock from 1894-5. He worked out from £34.5 million in 1994 to that it was preventing the £28 million last year and again yesterday to mated £11 million of betterpriced stock.

He noted that sales per square foot were poor. In the year to January, they rose 6 per cent to £173 million but were still "lamentable". He said yesterday: "When you see that more than half of our stores average over £200 per sq ft that begins to tell you what the bottom ones must be doing and that's where I have site in the Touchwood Court got to address it."

The company aims to refotral Solihull in spring 1999.

season events which should | cus towards own-brand products and to recover the 1.6 per fered in the past year. Consumers remain cau-

tious and selective in their purchasing, but Mr McGowan said sales had got off to a good start this vear

He would not say how many of the current 51 stores would be sold or closed this year but promised that the new store opening pro-New stores have been announced for Swindon, Nottingham, Reading, and the Yesterday Mr McGowan said the company had been selected to provide the anchor

### A philosophy that reflects concern for the future

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Chris Hawkins on

a major setback for Guineas favourite

HEY said some bub-bles would burst at Newmarket this week and the biggest one of the lot blew up yesterday when Alhaarth, hot favourite for both the 2 200 Grince and for both the 2,000 Guineas and Derby, was besten in the Cra-ven Stakes.

True it was only by a neck that he surrendered to Beau-champ King, but his ante-post supporters, tottered off the stands seriously wondering whether they should bin their

wouchers.

Willie Carson, rider of Alhaarth, gave them some hope by boldly declaring afterwards: "I've s big chance of beating the winner in the Guineas." But when asked to elaborate he did not come up with many solid reasons.

grown much over the winter, pulled very hard for the first half-mile and Carson fought him rather than deciding to

let him stride on.
Running down into the Dip
he was asked to go after the
leader Polaris Flight and although he got to the front the response was far from

electric.
Albaarth found something but led only on sufferance as Beauchamp King could be seen cantering in behind him. As soon as John Reid switched the grey, he quick-ened to head Alhaarth although it must be said that the latter kept on under a

strong Carson ride. In the unsaddling enclosure Alhaerth looked totally unconcerned, unlike his connections, and in trainer Major Dick Hern's words: "He wouldn't have blown out a

There are only two inter-pretations of this; either Al-

haarth was very fit and the race took nothing out of him or, in racing parlance, he didn't do a tap. Could be have become just bone idle?

Carson said: "I gave him a hard race. He had six cracks and if I was him I wouldn't like to like down on the didn't.

like to lie down on that side tonight. But there was only a neck in it and I still think I've a big chance of beating the winner in the Guineas where we might have a pacemaker. Whether that'll be good enough to win the Guineas is another matter."

How to ride the colt in future now becomes a matter for Carson and Hern to work out. If he is inclined to stop when he hits the front he will have to held up until the last possible moment, and no doubt the stronger the pace the better it will suit him.

Hern said there was no plan

eating the winner in the guineas." But when asked to laborate he did not come up with many solid reasons.

Alhaarth, who has not Tm sure the race will do him

Albaarth was knocked out to a best priced 2-1 for the Guineas with Ladbrokes who now make him joint favourite with Beauchemp King, Mark Of Esteem is an 8-1 chance, followed by Royal Applause and Danehill Dencer, due to run in tomorrow's Greenham

Stakes, at 10-1.
Beauchamp King may not get the credit he deserves for his success in view of all the Alhaarth hype, but he travelled nicely throughout the race and quickened like a deserve here. cent horse.

It is quite possible he has been underrated, although John Dunlop, his trainer, admitted to being slightly

surprised.

"I had him pretty straight mile as a juvenile but he is mot certain on breeding to probably beat him," he said.

"But this horse keeps on improving and what pleases me about him is that he was quiet make more sense than 5-2 Allerd whose prospects are



Beau dazzler . . . the grey Beauchamp King topples Alhaarth in yesterday's Craven Stakes

Reauchamp King, owned by Swedish banker Eric Penser,

not good. To get a mile and a half he must relax more, while physically he simply does not look like a middledistance colt, being compact and muscular.

Ante-post Guineas vouchers may still be worth some-Even so, the offer of 16-1 for thing, but those with 25-1 the. Derby would seem to make more sense than 5-2 Alhaarth whose prospects are winter holidays in Barbados.

after striding home four lengths clear of St Mawes another Dunlop runner — in the Feilden Stakes.

The decision to go for the Water, two of his hopefuls, Guineas was taken after con- are due to run at Newbury

2.40 Set Amift

The Henry Cecil-trained er's owner, Prince Fahd Sal-Storm Trooper, beaten just man, last night. "Storm over a length by Beauchamp King at Ascot in October, entered Guineas calculations after striding home four lengths clear of St Mayes."

Caril has plenty of dark

Cecil has plenty of dark horses for the Classics and Phantom Quest and Bright Water, two of his hopefuls,

4.15 Dháin Quest

### **SPORTS NEWS 13**

Sport in brief

### **Hamed warning for** unbeaten Alicea

NASEEM HAMED has been frustrated in his efforts to add a second world title to his World Boxing Organisation feather-weight championship this summer. The promoter Frank War-ren cast around after Hamed's destruction of Said Lawal in ren cast ground after Hamed's destruction of Sain Lawai in Glasgow last month and the rival world champions Tom John-son, Marco Antonio Barrera, Azumah Nelson and Wayne McCullough were all tempted without taking the bait. Hamed, who will how make a mandatory defence against the imbeaten Puerto Rican Daniel Altica in Newcastle on June 8, said yesterday: "I have a great deal of respect for Alicea but only one of us can stay unbeaten — and that will be me."

#### Redgrave is pre-selected

STEVE REDGRAVE, who will compete in Atlanta for a record fourth successive Olympic gold medal, was pre-selected with his partner Matthew Pinsent yesterday by the Amateur Rowing Association together with the coxless four of Greg and Jonny Searle, Rupert Obholzer and Tim Foster, urrites Christopher Dodd. The six pre-selected rowers have won 36 medals at world and Olympic level between them, including 18 golds. Seven other crews will compete for the final places available in their classes at a qualifying repaths in Lucerne from June 7-9 a qualifying regatta in Lucerne from June 7-9.

#### IAAF agrees new TV deal

THE international Amateur Athletic Federation yesterday announced an agreement with the European Broadcasting Union to end an impasse which had threatened television coverage of major events, writes Stephen Birrley. The IAAF said the deal, worth 200 million Swiss francs (nearly £110 million) from 1996 to 2001 inclusive, would cover world outdoor and indoor finals in 1997, 1999 and 2001, the 1998 World Cup and the annual Grand Prix

It had been feared that the LAAF might be pressed into selling TV rights to satellite companies for pay channels rather than make major events available to terrestrial viewers.

#### Rose blooms as Britain draw

INSPIRED goalkeeping by Hilary Rose gave Great Britain a 1-1 draw against United States, bockey's World Cup bronze medal-lists, in the first of seven matches in 12 days — to replicate the Olympic programme — at Clark University, urties Par Rousley in Allanta. Scotland's Sue MacDonald put Britain ahead in the first minute after a right-wing break by Tammy Miller, and Rose made a string of saves to deny the US an equaliser until she was beaten in the 60th minute by a Barbara Marois shot after a corner.

#### Rusedski falls to Enqvist

BRITAIN's tennis No. 1 Greg Rusedski was knocked out of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday, losing in the third round to the third seed Thomas Enqvist. The Swede, winner of last week's Indian Open, reached the quarter-finals with a 7-8, 6-1 victory over the 13th seed, who served 11 aces.

#### Monarchs freeze out 'Fridge'

BOBBY HAMMOND, head coach of the London Monarchs, yesterday defended the decision to leave their big-name American Football signing William "The Refrigerator" Perry out of tomorrow's World League game in Germany against Frankfurt Galaxy. The 25-stone Perry is replaced by Lewis Capes, son of the former shot-put champion Geoff, and Hammond pointed out that the

### Bosra Sham to show the way in Newbury treble for Cecil

Henry Cecil, her trainer, has made no secret of the fact

Coulon Count to Street Properties Makers, Drawn Louy nor

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2.15 CARSTERS HANDICAP IN \$3.344

should come from the performance here of Najiya, who was beaten five and a half that he is delighted with her progress during the winter.

As a two-year-old this full-sister to Hector Protector won both her races, a maiden here lengths by Blue Duster in the Cheveley Park Stakes.

Silk Masque, winner of a Goodwood maiden, is highly regarded by the Peter Chap-

Thirsk runners and riders

BOSRA SHAM should be over six furlongs and the Asthe star turn at Newbury cot Fillies Mile.

Only Blue Duster rivals (3.10).

District Control of the Asthe Sham of the Asthe

day and Daylight in Dubai (2.10) is rumoured to be better. He is bound to be a warm order for the opening Beckhampton Maiden Stakes, although Granny's Pet could make a race of it. Besides Bosra Sham, Cecil is the selection.

TOP FORM TIPE: Spillator 16, August 8, Status Kins 7

TOP FORM TIPS: Challenged 6, Buston 7

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this afternoon when the 1,000 Collineas favourite makes her reappearance in the Dubai Duty Free Fred Darling Cot Filles Mile.

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Cecil saddles Corradini in the Thatcham Handican Hecould be a Cup horse this season but I prefer to wait and see as his record last year was casion Shadirwan (5.15), a cruising winner at Doncaster.

Asimiral, 35-1 Gool 7 passage

Newbury with form guide

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### Ayr National Hunt card

O PARTICUL HOUSE HOTEL CONTROL AS SALES HOUSE HO 2.35 BOYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND WATIONAL WHET IK

... Wyer \_III Finder \_D. J. Hodield \_III Beddeld \_III Johnson (2) \_S. Historee (7) \_O. Upter \_D. Paykar (3) \_B. Storey 5 HOYAL BARK OF SCOTLAND (D) T Ensirty 5-11-5

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BUT-B GARRIC CHARM (410) J Charlon 8-10-11 3.05 HILLHOUSE CHARRY HANDICAP CRASE 2m 4f £7,100 2-SF11F OLD SHEEDE (22) (20) A Turnell 5-11-16
T17860 MASTER ROSTON (22) (0) R Musclesson 8-11-0
F06/02 WIND FORCE (11) (CD) G Richards T1-11-0

Buttings 5-2 Ctd Straigs, 5-1 Pive To Seven, 7-2 Major Boll, 8-2 Master Routon, 6-1 Mari Farce, 55-1 For Onl Game 

● Blinkered first time today: Ayr 4.35 Moynsha House. NEWBURY 4.45 Daring Destiny. THIRSK 2.15 Gymcrak Hero.

Results MEWMARKET

2.00 (e); 1, SALINE, 5 Sanders (5-1); 2, Wildward Flower (7-1); 3, Workmard Flower (7-1); 3, Workmark Walls (6, 1); 5-1 lay Domak Amasın, 15 rar. 3, nt. (N O'Sornsan) Tols: 512.45; 54.10; 2.40, (2.50, Dani F. EU/50, Tric: 194.50. GSF: Ch1.50. Tricust: E465.45, NNF Farhams. RIPOM

2.30 (672 1, STATKEMAN, K Darley [9-2);
2, Remain loop (4-1); 3, Dauble Assisser
(11-2); 7-4 for Plan For Profit, 10 ran. No. 14,
(M Channon) Tota: C5.20; 22.00, C1.80, C1.70,
Dual F: E5.20, C1.00; 710; 228.50, C57 E24.83,
Boisro Boy finished third but was disqualflect to risting to weight in.

3.50 (102 1, 1-4.00 to WARAMO, J Carroll
(7-2); 2, La Suspect (100-30 lov); 3, John
O'Branama (20-1); 3, San-Dear (9-2); 10
Isan. 13, 75 (1) Berry) Tota: 24.50; 51.50,
S1.40, San-Dear (2006, John O'Dratms
(1.70, Dual F: E7.90, Tho: with Sen-Dear
(1.70, Dual F: 27.90, Tho: with Sen-Dear
(2.70, Dual F: 27.90, Tho: with Sen-Dear
(2.71, Burney 1-1); 3, Santharfa, K Darley (9-2); 2,
Exchanger (33-1); 3, Tamfan Berg (6-1);
2, Exchanger (33-1); 3, Tamfan Berg (6-1);
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3, San-Dear (100, 15 th), E1.60, Dual F:
191.00, Trior 2216.30, C5F; 2185.

4,00 (1m 4\* E0ydelp 1, RABBHAAR, R
Cochrana (11-8 lov); 2, Jackson Park
(2-2); 3, Reint O'Herring (5-1), Tan. 2, nk.
(D Morley) Tota: 52.60; £1.80, 52.40, Dual F:
27.00, C5F; 22.80.

4.30 (1mp) 1, Wilstend (11-2); 3, Columnballa (4-1), 2-1 for Rahpen, 15 ran. 3, k. (4)
Cocil) Tota: 52.10; £1.30, 57.40, 51.80 Dual F:
28.50 (17); 61.20, 52.20, 52.00, Dual F:
28.50 (17); 61.20, C5F; 51.80. Tricast 2168.52.

3.05 (tam 10: 1, STORM TRIGOPER, Pal SON (tam 10: 1, STORM TRIGOPER, Pal SON (tam 10: 1): 4, St Manusco (14-7): 3, Junch Joseph Jones, 23, 10; 11.50, 13, 30; 05.20. Dass P. 122.10, Trice (240.20. GSP-128.60. AST: Kala Shortino, South Salorn.

3.40 (1min 1, SEALICHAMER KIRRO, J Raid (0-2): 2, Allisonthis (1-2 lart): 3, Polistic Propiete (25-1), Stant. No. 23, 4 Denrico) Toler (4.05; 11.50, E.1.0. Dual P. 12.10. GSP-128.60. A10 (Tric. 1, LDOMEZ, J. Raid (10-10)) Toler (4.10) (Tric. 1, LDOMEZ, J. Raid (10-10)) Toler (4.10) (Tric. 1, LDOMEZ, J. Raid (10-10)) (10-10) ELECTION, CL. 10. Dual F: E2. 10. GSF: 10.80.
4.10 (77): 1, LJOHNZE, J Finld (evens tay):
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5. monotourn (2-1): 3, Frienc Light (10-1):
5. monotourn (2-1): 3, Frienc Light (10-1):
5. 10. (13.9): Champio-hyten) Totac CL. 20;
6. 10. (13.9): Dual F: E1. 10. (GSF: E2.20): Non
Partners: Good Spack, Nammerstadit, Loney)
Lander.
4. 48 (187): 1, FLETCHER, Y Caden (13-8):
4. 30 (1-1): 7. (10-1

E.20 (90) 1, MUCHEA, R Hopkes (8-1) byt 2, Hermonmeethakalaht (3-1); 3, Edit Te Rio (7-1), 4 ran. 35, 2 (14 Channon) Tols: 21.90, Dual F 21.90, GSF; 23.31, ... ACCRPUIT: Not were "99 men "99 for all the control of th ### S.06 (87): 1, Chapping I. Hall, J Scimus 1: 10 year Heleja 1, OTTOWA, Pennya Whisiang (20-1), 2-1 law Stand Tall, 13 ran, 14, 25, (5 Bowring) Tota: \$8.10; 12-40, \$1.00, \$1.9 Tis Not won, 132,600.71 carried



Cricket

**English** 

pledge

NDREW SYMONDS.

the 20-year-old batsman whose registration with

Gloucestershire last summer

giving Gloucestershire an answer and received "three il-

legal approaches from other

counties", according to the county's chief executive

Philip August.
The player, born in Britain before going to live in Australia with his adoptive parents, was picked up at Heathrow airport yesterday by August.
"He told me about the interest

other counties had been showing in him and naturally

was less than pleased."
Symonds's new contract in

David Foot

## Champions elect tread on egg shells

HIS time the learne championship has ceased to be a marathon. It has become a palsied egg-and-spoon race, with one or other of the participants likely to find them-selves left holding an omelette before very long.

Neither Manchester United. who defeated Leeds with a late goal from Roy Keane, nor Newcastle United, whose early goal from Robert Lee proved sufficient to beat Southsupton, were impressive winners on Wednesday. Indeed, Manchester United are already laying in a fresh stock of ham to go with their omelette, judging from their manager's reaction to his team's last two performances.

On Saturday Alex Ferguson put United's 3-1 defeat at Southampton down to a grey away strip, which was changed at half-time. On Wednesday, after United had struggled to overcome a Leeds side reduced by Mark Beeney's dismissal to nine men and a makeshift goalkeeper for all but 17 minutes of the match, he tore into the oppo-sition. He was miffed at the way Leeds raised their game at Old Trafford when, accord-ing to Ferguson, they should be performing regularly at a similar level.

"I think we can accept any club coming here and trying their hardest," said Ferguson. "so long as they do it every week." Maybe he was looking shead nervously to Leeds's next match, which will be at home to Newcastle on Mon-

By then Manchester United. who meet Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford the previous afternoon, could have restored their lead to six points, which would leave

**Germany face** rebuff over

Klinsmann ban

URGEN KLINSMANN will probably be told today that

he must miss Germany's

opening match of the Euro-

Germany, who face the Czech Republic on June 9.

had launched a vigorous cam-

paign to discount their cap-tain's bookings but Uefa

that they will be carried over.

that England, the hosts, will

have a full complement of players as they pre-qualified.

be altered because the Ger-mans are upset," said a Uefa

spokesman. "When the com-

to qualify they did not com-

Germany would also be

without Steffen Freund, and

Romania's Daniel Prodan.

zerland's Marc Hottiger and

Holland's Danny Blind may

Miguel Nadal stands to miss

picking up two bookings in the qualifying competition.

Germany, who feet it is a field Wednesday to constitute the property of the constitution o

The rules are unlikely to that such a candidate

petition was held in Germany cided that the name of in 1988 and they did not have David Richards should be

Kevin Keegan's players need-ing to win at Elland Road and then beat Forest at the City Ground three nights later to take the contest into the final weekend all square.

Clearly Newcastle, who have taken only one point from their last five away matches, have had the rough end of the stick when it comes to end-of-season fixture arrangements. At this stage games in hand tend to be a highly theoretical advantage and now Reegan has Les Fer-dinand and Robert Lee nurs-

ing injuries.

Neither will be fit for England's game against Croatia
on Wednesday — yesterday Manchester United's Phil Neville also withdrew from the squad, with the Villa lefthack Alan Wright called up in his place — and the loss of Ferdinand will inevitably in-crease the speculation about whether Terry Venables will use the opportunity to see if Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler can reproduce their prolific Liverpool partnership at international level.

So far as the championship is concerned all may yet be decided by the number of goals scored between now and the end of the season. In addition to their three-point lead. Manchester United are two ahead of Newcastle both on goal difference and goal totals, and on Wednesday wasted numerous chances to

#### The run-in

MANCHESTER UNITED April 28 Nottm Forest home Middlesbrough away

Club chairmen

back Richards

when Millichip retires at games this season.

DREMIER League make a complete recovery.

Chairmen yesterday Steve Foster, Brighton's

that such a candidate Robin Sharpe, over a bill should be one of the five for players footwear.

dent that the player, in international starts. Eng-jured on Wednesday land lie second in their

against West Ham, will group behind Italy.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

April 29 Nottm Forest May 5

Sir Bert Millichip as Foot-ball Association chairman

clubs agreed to lend their

support to a single candi-date. It was further agreed

current members of the FA

Council, and it has been de-

cided that the name of

Gary Charles, the Aston Villa defender, may be out

of action for a year after suffering a broken and dis-

But the club's physiother-

apist, Jim Walker, is confi-

located left ankle.

widen the cap after Beeney outside his penalty area.

Andy Cole wasted four was substituted, and here Ferguson has a crucial decision to make. Dare he risk his 27 million striker again missing the sort of chance which, had it been taken at West Ham on the final day of last season, would have completed Old Trafford's championship hattrick? Instead the title went to Ewood Park despite Black-burn's defeat at Liverpool.

Manchester United may ve become the first club to achieve the league and FA Cup double twice, but on the form of their last two games this remains a possibility rather than a probability. Against Leeds they badly missed Nicky Butt, who was

Even more remote is the likelihood of the champion-ship being decided by a play-off should Manchester United and Newcastle finish level on points and goals.

Goals, or the lack of them, may yet decide one of the relegation places. After Wednes day night. Southampton, Cov. entry and Manchester City are level on 34 points. City have slipped back into the bottom three, and the two teams above them are separated by Southampton's superior goal difference of one.

It is hard to be optimistic about the chances of Maine Road continuing to watch

Premiership football next sea-son. Manchester City's two remaining fixtures are against Aston Villa and Liveragainst Ason vina and Laver-pool, while Southsmpton play Bolton and Wimbledon and Coventry meet Wimbledon and Leeds. Realistically, QPR must take maximum points from their matches with West Ham and Nottingham Fores

former England defender, has announced his retire-

ment at the age of 38 after a

21-year career. Injuries have restricted him to eight

Bobby Smith, the former

claimed he was "forced to

the club's chief executive,

· First-haif goals from Kel-

ly Smith and the substitute

Vicky Exley gave England a 2-0 victory over a physical

Croatia team in a European Women's Championship qualifier watched by 4,000

in Osijek yesterday. Smith's 20-yard shot to

open the scoring on 33 min-

utes was the teenage wing-

er's third goal in only five



Man alone . . . Atherton waits for a new partner — a familiar situation for England's captain PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Three-day match: Lancashire v Yorkshire

Gupte and Smith boost students

CHINMAY GUPTE scored | 20 for no wicket in their the fourth first-class | second innings by the close.

Durham at The Parks.

After Durham had de Glamorgan at Fenner's. His

clared their first innings at side declared on 225 for 334 without loss, the University responded with 227 county added 105 without

for four. Durham reached loss by the close.

### Sticky start for Atherton

Andy Wilson at Old Trafford

AVID LLOYD has departed to put the smile back on English cricket, but where does that leave Lancashire? Yesterday life after Lloyd at Old Trafford got off to a pretty miserable start. Mike Atherton lost the toss, paign to discount their cap-tain's bookings but Uefa A statement issued after Swansea manager, has lost seems certain to announce the chairmen's quarterly his claim for unfair dishis side were inserted by Yorkshire's new captain at they will be carried over. meeting at Lancaster Gate missal. Smith, who David Byas, and within 10 The Germans are annoyed said: 'Premier League resigned on December 22, overs they were reduced to 14 claimed he was "forced to for two by Alex Whart, a shire and Yorkshire checked walk" after a dispute with burly 20-year-old seamer who that the reduction of this

wickets in the process.

century of his Oxford Uni-

versity career yesterday, hitting 113 not out against

Wharf's only other victim over game on Monday in documents of the Benson had been Brian Lara — in the tyro's only other match, against Warwickshire at Scarborough in 1994 — so for probably the only time in his career Steve Titchard found himself coming between Lara and Atherton. Titchard was brilliantly caught at second slip by Byas six overs before the England captain edged an outswinger to Richard

trebled his tally of first-class | game from four days to three, to allow them to play a 50-

Ed Smith scored a cen-tury on his first-class Cam-bridge debut when he made

Blakey.

The wickets will definitely for a 40-over game between A the teams on Sunday - and

Yorkshire decided not to include Michael Bevan, who arrived from Australia only on Wednesday night.

Graham Lloyd, in his first innings as "son of the England coach", responded to Lancashire's problems with predictable aggression, striking land.

All Manufactures of Berses and Pamer.

Hamilton 6-0-10-1, Fisher 2-0-22-0; White 2-0-32-0, Morris 0.1-0-0-4, Morris 0.1-0-0-4

land A v The Rest fixture.

able aggression, striking lan Fisher straight for six when the young left-arm spinner was given a surprisingly early bowl. But shortly before heavy rain ended play at 12:30, Lloy top-edged a pull off Gavin Hamilton and was caught by

stand of 45 with Nick Speak.

tourist Craig White to ease back, after his side strain, are considerably underwith two uneventful overs of strength, each missing four with two uneversity who will head for Chalmsford today for the Eng-LANCASHERE V YORK Old Trafford Lancashire he

In addition Lancashire are without their injured World Cup pair Neil Fairbrother SP Thebard c Syss b What and Peter Martin — both are N. A Atheron c States b What N. Bossh and cut

 Kent are hoping that their overseas player Carl Hooper will now be available for the start of the new season. The 29-year-old all-rounder was recalled to the West Indies squad for the current Test Darren Gough at mid-off hav-ling hit 33 in a third-wicket but was left out of the 13 for

symongs a new contract includes a stringent clause insisted upon by the Test and County Cricket Board and Cricketers' Association that he will be available to play for England in Test matches if selected. After an explosive summer with Gloucestershire last year in which he scored 1,438 runs and hit a world-record 20

sixes against Glamorgan, he refused a place on the Eng-land A tour to Pakistan. This led to renewed calls for him to be banned from county tered as an overseas player. Gloucestershire argued that the player was English because he was born in Bir-mingham, although he had Australia as a baby.

The England chairman of

ectors met the news yesterday with a frosty response. "I know how I feit last year and so far my feelings have not changed," said Raymond Ill-ingworth.

Symonds, the most exciting discovery in county cricket in

1995, was voted Young Crick-eter of the Year by journal-ists. Many were convinced he would devote his future to Australia after one season here. But he had a disappointing time with Queensland over the winter, which may have influenced his decision

to return to Bristol. He went straight into the nets at the county ground yesterday, shivering in the cold. He is likely to play in a friendly match against Shrop-

Symonds was uncommuni cative. "What's happened has happened. Let's talk about the future instead." he suggested but then proved unwilling to bution to Gloucestershire's fortunes. What should have een an upbeat morning for Gloucestershire cricket had come and gone in the wind.

Yesterday the implications of his registration and the fact that he would now be English-qualified were made "absolutely clear to him", in August's words. August added that the new contract showed "a very big increase" on Symonds's wages last

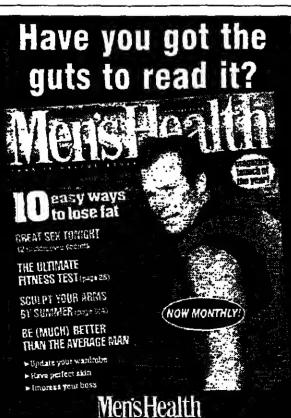
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AVON INSURANCE COMPINATIO

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Cami. B Lane P Broadhurd, P Mante (Neth), I Pyman M Farry (Fr.) D Carler J Sanddin (Seed). R Chapman R Directally, C Post (Dong A Kankkonen (Firit 74 R Borall); P Baber M Four P Lyerne P O Malley (Author) I Follow (Seed). R Chapman (Seed). R Carler (Seed). R McAllister: J Riverto (Seed). R McAllister: J Riverto (Seed). R Sendanticy & Gallon P Carler (Fr.) R Sendanticy & Gallon P Carler (Seed). R Sendanticy & Gallon P Carler (Seed).



MAY ISSUE ON SALE NOW

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R Claudon: F Howley C Suneson 74 G
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D Housell 72 R Googen (SA), W Westner;
P Medblom (Swell A Enhance (Swel), A Hungle, M Anglant (Swel), D Haggins, G
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P Cury, J L Gurry (Fr) S Strucer (Gor); M
DAVO, R McFarlane, T Level (Fr), J Remes, (Fr) P Moloney (Aus) S Gallacher; P
Proc, M Visich, R Coles 77 R Karlsson
(Swel), M Lamer (Swell S Hinning (Don), G
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Field 78 F Tarnaud (Fr) P Spland (Swel),
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(Fr) 80 M Plummer 81 A Hansen (Den)

Tennis

Tennis

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Si Louis 6 Pritosburgh 1. Basketball

Bowls

SHIPS MOILEN MOVER

AMBER TOURNAMENT (Monaco) Reund 10 standboger V Stannik (Rus) 6 AWBER TOURNAMENT (MOREC)
Resund 10 standings V Framilie (Rus) 9.
V Anand (Ind) 7. V trenchuk (JRc) 6t. J Plice (Rets), J Polgar (Huri), A Sinchov (Sp) 5t. J Lauter (Fr) 5: G Karsky (JLS), A Karpov (Rus) 4: P Michile (Bos) 3t. L Ljubojevic (Yug) 2: X Jun (Ching) 15. Cricket

THREE-DAY MATCHESS: Former's: Glamorgan 262-1 dec (H Morris 125no D L Herno 100no) and 105-0 (M P Maynard 60no) Combridge Univ 225-3 dec (E T Smign 107. A Singh 52no) Tise Perikas Denham 334-0 dec (S Husson 172no. M A Roseborry 145no) and 20-0. Ostord Univ 227-1 dec (C M Gupte 112no. I J Satcliffe 66).

Hockey WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Adams United States T, Great Britain 1. Ice Hockey

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Eindhoven): Peel B: Switzerland 5, Poland 2, PRISHDLY (SPTERMATIONAL (Cleake Streegerich) Cc 8, Canada 3, NML PLAY-OFFE: First repaire Washington 6, Pitaburgh 4 (Washington lead serios 1-0): Florida 6, Boston 3 (Florida Isad 1-0): Washington 6, Williams Deroit 4, Wilninger 1 (Octoo): feed 1-di. Chicago 4, Calgary 1 (Chicago lead 1-di. Chicago 4, Calgary 1 (Chicago lead 1-di. Chicago 1640 1

Fixtures

Soccer LRACUE OF INSLAND, Premier Divisions Stetocurie v Stigo Rvrs (7.45), Dundar v St Paincha Ath (7.45). Rugby Union U-21 INTERNATIONAL: England v

Hockey

Rugby League

### Dwyer has attacking ambitions

tand of 45 with Nick Speak. There had also been time to be back in England.

OB DWYER, the former Australia coach who has been linked with Leicester's director of rugby vacancy, intends to introduce

the dynamic style of the Super 12 competition to Sunday's insugural Sanyo Cup between a World XV and the Courage league champions at Twickenham.

ing positions. The pacy French forwards Laurent Cabannes, isy's insugural Sanyo Cup Olivier Roumat and Abdel The predicted crowd of announcement was made yesterday by the former Ireland chance to see Sells on English internationals Hugo MacNeill Ewickenham.

Dwyer, who has spent much The Squad has been Dwyer, who has spent much The Squad has been Countries, for Saracens in September.

such world-class backs as Thierry Lacroix, Philippe Sella

and Fiji's sevens expert Wai-sale Serevi from deep attack-

Olivier Roumat and Abdel Benazzi are also in his 22-

tain and hooker, Jason Leon-ard, England's prop. and the Scotland fly-half Gregor Townsend are expected to be "Peace International" at Lans-"Peace International" at Lans-The predicted crowd of

of this season coaching in including Argentina, Japan. Roumat and Cabannes may France, intends to give short Western Samoa and the also join English clubs before united Kingdom. Jonathan hext season. Humphreys, the Wales caper of Francois Pienaar, who capers of the season of the season.

 Francois Pienaar, who cap-tained South Africa to last announcement was made yes

Bristol launch incentive scheme to retain their leading players

lan Malin

TROUBLED Bristol are taking steps to halt the drain in talent from the Memorial Ground by offering players a bonus scheme which can raise up to £500.000 between them over the next three years. Bristol, whose recent slump in form means that

the losers of tomorrow's cens face relegation from League One, have announced a sponsorship scheme with the Bristol and West Building Society which hinges on their league position, cup form and tries scored.

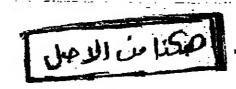
Bristol's England scrum-"We have to accept that in restored to the centre, the new professional game where he played at Saraour wages will be related to cens last Saturday.

our performance on the field and we have to be ac-countable for our results." Bracken has been the target of Harlequins this sea-son; Bristol have also lost their Rugland lock Garath Archer to Newcastle Gos-forth this week, and the North-east club have made overtures to the flanker

Martin Corry. Jeremy Guscott has a fit-ness test today before the leaders Bath travel north to face Orrell in a Courage league game at Central Park tomorrow.

The England centre, who has missed Bath's last two games while filming a television programme in South Africa, has a strained leg muscle. If he is ruled unfit, Adedayo Adebayo will be





Extra time Edited by Joremy Alexander

The red-hot truth

of playing in grey

### **LONDON MARATHON**

### Atlanta gold is losing value

Stephen Blerley

Sricket

Symonds

takes the

English

pledge

the International Amateur Athletic Federation to pay prize-money at its out-door and indoor world championships (and the biennial World Cup team event) will inevitably cause certain athletes, notably distance runners, to ponder whether runners, to ponder whether running in the Olympic Games is really worthwhile.

One of the favourites for

Sunday's London race, Belgium's Vincent Rousseau the only man in marathon history to get under 2hr 8min twice - has ruled out Atlanta primarily because of the in-tense heat and humidity.

It is not so much that Rous-seau knows his medal hopes would be cooked: rather, he recognises that hurning himself out would inevitably lessen his chances of continu-ing to make a lucrative living on the roads of more temper

Sunday's winner will earn a basic £36,000 with a sliding scale of boruses for fast times and course or world records. Who needs the Olympics?

Paul Evans, one of Britain's main hopes in London, has also indicated he does not want to run the marathon in Atlanta and will try for a 10,000 metres berth instead. Consequently he intends to give it his all on Sunday, protesting that the Olympic mar-athon is too much of a lottery - by which he means the weather, not the money.

As usual there is much pre-race talk of a particularly swift men's race, with one of the strongest elite fields for many years. Portugal's Domingos Castro, the winner of the Paris marathon last year, summed up the possible na-

fast — me together — no prob-lem." Well, almost perfectly.

The man they will all be watching closely is Mexico's Dionicio Ceron, the winner in London for the past two years. At his side, possibly lit-erally, will be his compariot German Silva, who has won the last two New York marathons. It is the first time they have run against each other over this distance since the previous personal best being 1994 London event when Silva 3hr lmin 30sec. Silva hails from Tecomite

which has a population of 500. After his first New York win he managed to get his village put on mains electricity; his aim now is to get Tecomite mains water. A fast time for him may not only be in the pipeline but eventually pro-vide one or two as well.



You take the right side . . . Gerry Jones, now averaging 50 miles a week, puts in some yards with a partner on a Cornwall beach TOMBALDY/TODAY'S FLANER

### Adaptability of a long distance runner

Jill Turner on Gerry Jones, a blind man who will be chasing a sub-three-hour time

nasty graze across his temple and over his cheekbone. The other day he walked into a caravan. "It's par for the course, really. Sheer stupidlty. I was going too fast as usual," he shrugs.

Going too fast is not a usual complaint from an athlete in training for the London Mara-

thon, but Jones is an athleta. who has to watch his step wery carefully. He is blind.
No sympathy required. He does not need it. This Sunday he runs his 11th marathon and has a chance to push his

"mecial" athletes who will compete against Olympic hopefuls in the most open of all sporting contests. This year's age range is from 17 to 84; they vary from world-class to the lucky to be alive. There is a team of heart-hypess patients, and HIV and lenkaetic a partner's wrist with a min sufferers, thalidomide stretch of knicker elastic,

ERRY JONES has a victims, and recople who have nasty graze across lost limbs. A one-legged 58-lis temple and over his cheekbone. The time 26.2 miles on crutches plans to hop the last kilo-metre unaided this year. An-other regular in the 36,000 field is fighting a severe heart

condition and a brain tumour, each year he is not due for major surgery he books in for the marathon. Jones is one of an estimated 50 blind or visually impaired athletes competing. It was the London Marathon's unique spirit which first attracted him as he listened to the radio back in 1961. Enthusing about it to a friend at bone in Corn-wall they decided to give it a go ingether.

The first time I tried running alone I ran straight up this horse's aree. I heard all these people laughing at me. I apologised to the horse and went home." Now he looks to

teamwork.
It was trial and error to

whether to go left or right.

When things get tricky his guide can reel him in.

and I can slip up or trip over anything.

"My guide can't point out everything; I have injured my Jones's partner on Sunday will be Colin Douglas, a naval

officer, although he trains with locals back in Cornwall. Douglas's job is to bark commands, warn of obstacles and, inevitably in a crush like the marathon, swear at runners who get in the way. They work well together now al-though, when they started, their fitness levels were so different that Jones would different that Jones would streak shead as Douglas, like an off-the-pace guide dog, panted "Go left, go right".

Their training started in October, building up to 12-mile stints by Christmas.

Then it was a steady increase to a need of 50 miles a week.

The blind do not get preferential treatment in the marathon, so at the start Jones tries to bluff his way to the front. "The start is a nightmare because you are stuck in a huge pack. People can be very careless and will throw things down on the ground in a huge pack. People can be very careless and will throw things down on the ground—bin-liners, foil bags, empty cartons—without thinking, mile mark things get a bit

to a peak of 50 miles a week by February, which has been

cooler because we are all stumbling around pathetically and the early aggression ankle many a time by step-ping on a bottle or slipped over a discarded bin-bag. Water stations are a night-

mere. I have to slow right

language can be pretty colour-ful at times."

Jones always runs on the

right, nearer the traffic but far-

ther away from deadly man-

hole covers and drains. When

tired he tends to lean to the right, too, so Douglas has to

has gone."
After 10 years in the event and with \$20,000 raised for the RNIB, for which he now works, Jones' identifies the course by time and distance down and walk, sliding my feet in front of me to make sure I don't tread on anyand can even pick out regu-lars in the crowds. "My favourite is a chap down by the Tower 20-mile mark who thing. When you're trying to race you can do without that. "People will slow or stop in always shouts encouragement. It's just what you want "People will slow or stop in front of you without warning. Or if they don't stop dead in front of you, so you crash into the back of them, they'll cut you up to whizz past, which is just as annoying. Despite having 'blind runner' and 'guide' on our vests, people have tried to run between us. The language can be prefit colour.

Jones, pulled him from the dregs of depression characterised by heavy drinking and caused by suddenly losing his sight after an accident at the age of 28. "It makes me feel happier," he says. "I'm a great believer in keeping a healthy body and mind, and that helps you to cope with the crap of work and all the bloody problems we all have. It doesn't solve them but it clears your brain so you can

"Also," he adds, "I like my beer and my cigars. I don't like to be unhealthy so if I keep running I can still keep having them, can't I?"

### Equestrianism

#### Skelton back in business

Judith Draper in Geneva

Nick Skelton has made an immediate impact in this year's Volvo Showjumping

World Cup final.

After giving his 1995 winner Dollar Girl a leisurely opening ride in the first warm-up competition, he won the second contest on the Ger man-bred Cathleen, a 10-yearold Holstein mare, once the mount of the American Meredith Michaels.

First to go in the jump-of for the Prix du Rhône, Cath-leen produced a second faultless performance which drew Skelton's six rivals into making mistakes as they tried to improve on the mare's fast

John Whitaker, Britain's only other contender here. had a less than happy time in yesterday's Power and Speed competition. Riding Visa Amadeus, he was eliminated for three refusals at the

## United over the years? Grey is a non-colour and a non-starter, especially for those accustomed to red and for those, like United, who lost their first game in it. "Sports people are very suspicious," says Rosemary Burr, a colour therapist and computant to individinto stripes but Sunderland are the last striped champi-

awareness". Premiership referees are well dressed. Turquoise, worz last week by Sheffield Wednesday, is recommended for the young. "It is the colour of spontane

tention grabbers whereas blue is passive, the colour of conformity, serenity and those who wish to be one of a crowd. Witness jeans.

"The down side of red is anger. You might expect a poor disciplinary record. To take the violent edge off, I would have a gold collar,

cords endorse it. Where are blues to match Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United over the years?

and consultant to individ-uals and companies. "If they lose, particularly

when they are used to win-ning, they look for some-thing to blame. Clothes ac-

quire talismanic properties, both good and bad. Colours, she says, affect

wearer and watcher. "Red stands out and excites fans.

Its associations are with vigour, passion, arousal. It both suits and encourages a team of individuals and at-

RED shirts expect to for wisdom and abundance than blue. Rethat. "Those used to being

that. "Those used to being energised by pulling on their shirt would feel a sense of drudgery and loss of identity in grey."

The Lüscher colour test, to reveal personality, says the choice of grey expresses "a wish for non-involvement". It has been "proved for young and old, civilised and uncivilised", so United are covered. It does not go into stripes but Sunderland

Rosemary Burr says green marks "independence and decision making. Emotion-ally it signifies panoramic ity and playfulness." The trouble is they all want to

play their heroes. She is the daughter of Reg Burr, recently chairman of Millwall, who play in blue.
After they lost to QPR in the
Cup last year she threw out
a pair of red boots which she wore to matches when they went into the top division Look where they are now.

#### Sixth column

Actub hit the headlines on Tuesday by qualifying for next season's European Cup Winners' Cup. At least they would have if they had fitted. for the same-ym-Mechain, was not named for headlines. It means the church of St Bride of the Prince of Powys. The whereabouts, for the mighty of Europe, are a recreation ground between Oswestry and Welshpool. The population is 943. The team,

of course, are the Saints.
They might have waited Barry Town in the Welsh Cup final at the National Stadium. But Barry qualified for the Uefa Cup by securing the Football League of Wales title. So the Saints, who beat Inter Cardiff in their semi-final, went marching on.

Their manager Graham Breeze, editor in chief of North Wales Newspapers, constructing its league pyra-mid. Llansantffraid, in the genuinely amateur Montgomeryshire Amateur League, applied to the Mid-Wales League. Two promotions later — and one would have come floodlights had not prevented it — they were in the FLoW. Now the Saints are semi-professional, drawing on

Crewe and Alsager colleges as well as the regulation plumber and steel erector; their stand holds 150, their average crowd; and they no longer change at the commu-

HE little Saints of Wales may be encouraged by a perspective from Brazil. All teams use the Maracana capacity 180,000) when neces sary. Fortunately Flumin-ense, the Rio de Janeiro champions, decided against it for their game against Volta Redonda. The crowd was 22.

BRICKBATS are flying with the octopuses in Detroit. Since a fishmonger threw the first on to the ice in 1952 when the Red Wings swept the Stanley Cup semi-finals and finals in eight games, the custom has set in and the preparation been refined. Raw ones do not bounce or roll. The secret is boiling for 20 minutes on high heat with a little lemon juice and white wine to mask the odour. In last year's losing final a record 54 hit the ice. Detroit are in the play-offs again, beating Winnipeg 4-1 on Wednesday. Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is not amused.

SNOOKER balls have come a long way from the ivery which lost its shape. For most of this century their manufac ture rested with the Warn-ford-Davis family but Darryll W-D died in 1977 and the interest did not extend to his

grand-daughter Pandora, wife of Kevin Maxwell. In 1982 his company, Compo, became a subsidiary of BCE Holdings. In 1990 it was sold to Saluc, a Belgian firm which now dom-

inates the market. Before Compo's Super Crystalate ball was invented — and adopted by the WPBSA in 1972 — its Crystalate ball ruled. The prime component besides celluloid was crushed component which component besides celluloid was crushed cow's shin-bones, which came cheap after raw buttons had been punched from them. BSE Holdings would have

BRIAN ROUSE bowed out of Flat racing at 58 this week with a hand injury sustained last summer. It makes Willie Carson, 53, Britain's senior Flat Jockey. Rous could have chosen worse mo ments to go. His wife Dorsen national bingo last week.

EICESTER's EICESTER's match against a World XV at Twickenham on Sunday has tested the Middlesex County RFU committee: how to at-tend its own cup final, kicksays it began six years ago off 3pm, and not miss out on when the FA of Wales was pre-match privileges at headpre-match privileges at head quarters before kick-off (3pm). The final is traditionally held on the ground of one of the participants, decided by toss of a coin. Under pretext of making more of it for its 25th anniver sary in current form, the com-mittee decided in February on

a neutral venue. Conveniently this turned out to be The Stoop, Harlequins' ground across the road from Twickenham. All four semi-finalists objected. Normally gate receipts are shared and the host club clears £3,000 at the bar. Staines and Old Merchant Taylors will get a guaranteed £500. The only yielding in old-time, highhanded self-interest came on the kick-off, put back from the

IFA has a three-man work-ing group redrafting soc-cer's laws for submission to its board in Belfast on March 1. It will dismiss the linesman for the "referee's assistant", as agreed last month in acknowledgment of women's in-creasing involvement in the game, but "ungentlemanly conduct" will remain. So what are women booked for?
Apparently the problem is exclusively English. In other tongues the term is neutral. It international Fredi Bobic eing sent off and given a onematch ban for calling a refer-ee a "blind bratwurst".

TONYA HARDING has filed for divorce 312 months after marrying her second husband. Having sold the wedding story for \$20,000, she wants to concentrate on her skating comeback. Michael Smith, 29 and married four times, has taken it on the knee. He says he feels used. Fortunately a prenuptial agreement was made: Har-ding keeps her pick-up truck and skating costumes. Smith. on leave from his machinist job, gets his tool chest.

### Faldo comes down to earth Walton's 65 helps ease the pain

### David Henderson at Hilton Head

ICK FALDO reached for the sky and almost fell on his face when he returned to action in the MCI Classic here in South Caro-

lina yesterday.

A huge gallery greeted him at the 1st but he failed to strike the opening drive expected of a Masters winner; he skied his tee-shot and the ball finished only 200 yards down the fairway.

"My divot went further than
the ball," chuckled Faldo, who
birdied the next three holes on

his way to a one-under-par 70 which left him four shots behind an American trio comprising Ken Green, Guy Boros and Jim Furyk.

It was always going to be a difficult day for the 38-year-old Englishman after his epic vicyesterday went out at the tail of the field in this \$1.4 million Town course, Faldo said: "I am a little tired but I really played ckay. Thankfully I had six birdies, because I also made a lot of mistakes.

lin, I want to carry on [winning]." he said.

"There's probably a bit more 'rough this year." he added, after officials admitted

"It was a weird feeling going out there after all the excitement of last week; I guess you can say it's back to the real world."

The normal world of Faldo is one of birdles and few errors — as seen at Augusta on Sunday, when he dropped only one shot — but yesterday it was a combination of bril-liance and blunder, with his birdles being accompanied by three bogeys and a double-bo-gey six at the 12th where his second shot hit a tree and he

"That was a real bad break," he said. "I cought the tiniest of twigs, the ball came uniest or twigs, the ball came straight down and I made a complete mess of the hole. My battle plan now is to keep get-ting the birdies and eliminate

the errors." Faldo, the favourite, is keen to do himself justice. "I really do crash down on my adrena-

that it was four inches high And more rough makes the greens seem smaller."
Sandy Lyle, the 1968 Mas

ers winner, also hit the highs and lows, with four birdles in his 71, while Norman was relaxing on his yacht, the Aussie Rules, berthed in the nearby harbour.

The Australian reflected on

The Australian reflected on the events at Augusta, where he lost a six-stroke lead in the final round. "What happened Sunday is over and done with. What happened was good and bad. It was bad I didn't win although I had a very good chance, and it was good because it changed my life for a lot of good reasons.

"It's wonderful when something like that happens to thing like that happens to you, it can change your life and make you feel a better

person because of the emotion

Michael Britten at Mougins

ATTACKS of gout are dusually the preserve of senior citizens who imbibe a surfeit of port. But the Ryder Cup hero Philip Wal-ton believes he may be a victim, after he limped to a first-round 65 in the Air

France Caunes Open.
The Irishman shared second place, one behind the record-equalling Span-iard Fernando Roca, then revealed that he had been forced to strap a bag of crushed ice to the big toe of his right foot and take painkilling tablets before tack-ling the Royal Mougins ourse. The 34-year-old Walton is

nystified by the condition, which arose on arrival on the Riviera on Tuesday. "I have started a fitness cam-paign and have not had any alcohol for three weeks," he said. "I have lost half a and support from people on a global basis." stone, but now I have got 70, was the best of this sharp pain across the gusta contenders.

as Roca equals course record top of my right big toe. The Tour physiotherapists don't know what is wrong but it feels like gout to me."

This week 12 months ago Walton won the Catalan Open to commence his surge to a Ryder Cup debut and ultimate glory at Oak Hill as the man who sank the putt that secured Europe's victory. Seven birdies here in a

faultless exhibition showed that there was little wrong with his course craft or shot-making after a month's His fellow Irishman Paul McGinley and Kent's Peter

Mitchell were also in top form with their putters to join Walton at six under par after Roca, from Barce-lona, had exposed the numerous birdie possibilities by going out in 29. He went on to match the course re-cord by claiming an eagle and seven birdles. Costantino Rocca, with a 70, was the best of the Au-

### Rugby League

### Robinson falls out with Wigan

ASON ROBENSON, the Great Britam wages, \_\_ to put in a written transfer this request for a transfer this ekend after Wigan refused to meet his pay demands.
The 21-year-old would be valued at around £350,000 but any potential purchasers

would need to clarify his contractual position. His contract with Wigan runs to June next year and he is then due to take up a fouryear deal with the Australian Rugby League, reputedly worth \$1.25 million and gred at the beight of the tricky situation."

funct Super League. It would appear, however, that Robinson's desire to play in Australia has cooled. He told Wigan he wanted to stay at Central Park but he wanted

them to agree a deal compara-

ble to the ARL's. Wigan, who are trying to reduce their wage bill, were not prepared to meet his da-mands. "We had a long chat," said Jack Robinson, the chairman, "but were mable to improve his contract to the ex-tent he wanted. We don't want him to leave but we cannot match the ARL offer. It's a

fails to arrive in Australia.

"A lot of clubs in Australia are expecting him to come here next year and they will all be vying for his services,"
John Quayle, the ARL's general manager, said this week.
The ARL has released Steve
Hampson, the Salford fullback, from his contract but because of Robinson's "status as a world-class player" that would be unlikely to happen in his case, said Quayle. Robinson may miss tonight's Super League game with Bradford Bulls because

battle between the ARL and Robinson is reported to of a neck injury. The match have received a substantial marks the 500th career appearance of Shaun Edwards, which will not be pleased if he marks the 500th career appearance of Shaum Edwards, Wigan's captain.

Kelvin Skarrett will be in the Wigan side despite moves by Warrington to sign him and

will fulfil the remaining two

years on his contract. The Bulls welcome back Jeremy Donougher and Karl Fairbank. Vila Matautia of St Helens will be clear to play against the Bulls at Wembley. He received a one-match ban yesterday for illegal use of the elbow. George Mann, the Leeds forward, was susnended for three matches for

#### McKenzie to switch codes

PHIL McKENZIE, 32, has become the first rugby league player to move to rugby union as a player-coach. He will take charge at the North Division One side Huddersfield when his contract with Workington Town expires in July, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

Australian-born, McKenzie has also played for Rochdale and Widnes and was once the best hooker in the English game. He was eligible for Great Britain but Malcolm Reilly, then the national coach, never took up the op-tion. "This is an ideal oppora high tackle on Oldham's tunity with a progressive

### RUGBY LEAGUE CUP FINAL WEMBLEY STADIUM

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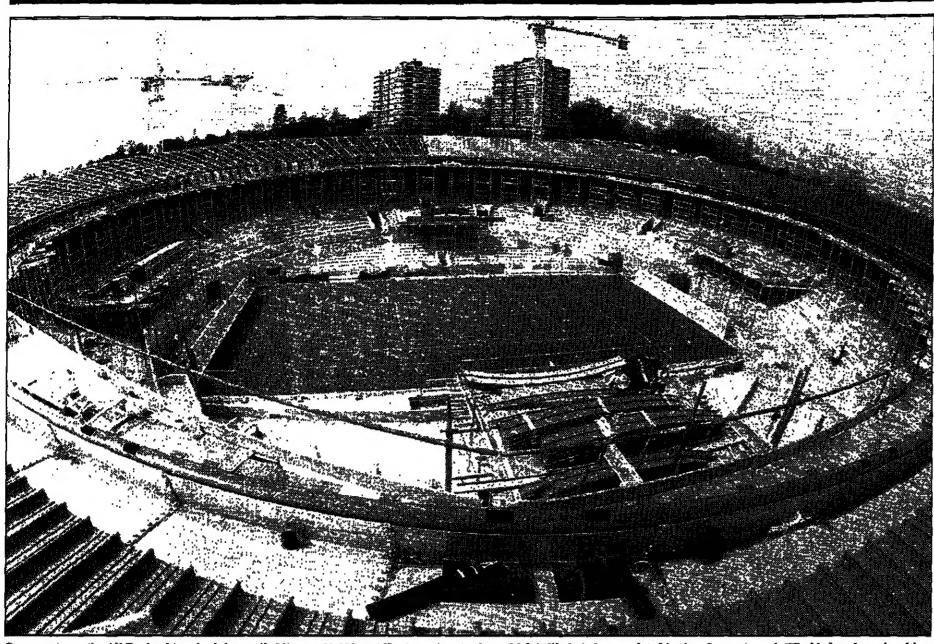


Faldo back in birdie mood, page 15

The marathon the hardest way, page 15

# SportsGuardian

### WIMBLEDON IS TOPPED OUT AND TOPPED UP



Grass roots . . . the All England tennis club unveiled its new 11,000-seat No. 1 court yesterday, which is likely to be completed in time for next year's Wimbledon championships

Mike Selvey on the choice of Graham Gooch and David Graveney to join the England selection panel

## Counties snub Illingworth

undermined yesterday when the counties registered a protest vote denying him the England selectors he

was left to ruminate on his television soapbox about the iniquity of it all.

Although Illingworth wanted.

Illingworth's preferred candiklates were John Edrich and County Cricket Board chair-Brian Bolus. Instead the men, it has never been used counties insisted that he have and the non-selection of his Graham Gooch and David henchmen, albeit by a small

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AYMOND Illing- stood against him for the job extent he has had the legs cut worth's already of chairman of selectors. The weakened power only bright spot for Illing- base was further worth was that Ian Botham democratically." Illingworth feeling among his teams that Ian Botham democratically." Illingworth stated in the comfort of incomfort and instructed him to comfort a withdraw.

England sides were generally cited a potential conflict of incomfort of incomfort and instructed him to comfort a withdraw.

Selector and that he would be select he had embraced the philoso-

said yesterday. "I expect the selectors to work hard and let's hope we are successful this summer.

There is no denying on the Colchester bandwagon. Gooch's credentials in terms of international experience. them as captain. Quite how innovative his input is likely

> ing Gooch to attend meetings. Whether that extends to time spent watching a specific aver is unclear Yesterday, Gooch said he was "a bit surprised" at the appointment. "But I think that having a current player is a good idea in principle and I'm delighted the counties thought that way. Now we have to sit down and plan how it's going to work. In my view the captain, chairman and coach are the crucial people and the others are there to contribute views."
>
> It will be interesting to see

phy of the boot camp rather

than the holiday camp long before Ann Widdecombe got

The very fact that Gooch is still playing for Essex also poses problems. Although a

current player certainly sees

cricketers at close quarters he would remain bound by his own schedule. Essex have

suggested Dexibility in allow-

It will be interesting to see whether the new committee, chaired by an increasingly isolated man, is able to pull not just together but in the

time. The captain Michael Ather ton's relationship with Illing-worth has never been close and the arrival of David and friend, as England coach gives him a valuable ally. Graveney's relationship with Illingworth has always had a touch of frost about it. He broke the cartel last season when he became a selector, bringing a different perspective to something that was seen by the countles as becoming a dictatorship.

Now that relationship could become arctic. Graveney's challenge for the chairmanship this year was ended only when the Cricketers' Association, the players' union of which he is chief executive, Gooch . . . 'a bit surprised'

his case honestly enough this week when he said that life would be easier if Graveney were not selected (previously he had expressed support for John Emburey instead of Lloyd as coach), Graveney stoically believes there is no reason why there should be any antipathy. "Obviously I would not have allowed my name to be put forward if I didn't think I could work with

him," he said yesterday. For Botham, the result represents an unusual dent to his pride: be is not a man used to he would still be available to help England this summer. "I'll come running if England want to use me in some capacity. They only have to ring. I'll turn up at any gettogether and will be thrilled to help any England player."

Perhaps the counties were

not impressed by his cam-paign — which raised what is normally low key to a national event — being conducted both through A Ques-tion of Sport and the tabloid newspaper he represents.
No doubt there were also suspicions that his lucrative



Russell longed to take the 'now' out of 'knowledge', because he had an oldfashioned devotion to the idea that only timeless truths are proper truths.

## Keeping a fiscal eye on the ball



Paul Weaver

NTHE insular world of football there is doubtless some manager who thinks that Dow Jones is a promis ing left-back some scout told him about, and that the Footsie is a gentle five a-side. These days, however, there are managers who can look their directors straight in the fiscal eye. The comments attributed to

the Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle yesterday provided ample evidence of the fact that we now have a few independent, free-thinking, finan-cially secure managers for whom the tyranny of the boardroom bully is a thing of

Hoddle, like Kevin Keegan, Bryan Robson, Ray Wilkins, Gerry Francis and a few others, is as likely to be seen with the Financial Times as with Rothmans Yearbook. They are all wealthy, or at least comfortably off, and able to inform their employers even those as self-important as Kan Bates and Alan Sugar that they are talking a load of entleman's private parts and if that is the way they feel about things they can look for

day as saying: "I want to have it clear in my mind in which direction the club is going before I can make any decision about my future. I am well aware of what can happen to a football club when it becomes public, having seen what went on at Spurs. Whatever happens, I think solid foundations have been laid and that suc-

ords carefully, like some mouthful of mackerel.

Now it is well known that Hoddle, who had a first round of clear-the-air talks at Chelsea yesterday, has at least one fanciful eye on the England job. But that is not the issue here. The point is that there are a growing number of football managers who do the job on their own terms and go to work each morning without the dread-fear that humiliation and the P45 are just one more bad result away. It can only be a good thing. Newcas-tle, Tottenham, Chelsea, Mid-dlesbrough and QPR have all

played some wonderful foot ball this season, whatever their positions in the table. This is not to say that a pocketful of lolly will make

you a good manager, as Tre-vor Francis and Graeme Sou

ess would ruefully confirm but it does allow a measure of freedom and even idealism. At the other end of the scale we have the endangered species, the old-fashioned, larger-than-life gaffer in the shape of Ron Atkinson, struggling for Premiership survival with Coventry City, who looks as vulnerable as Humpty

tigo coming on. Death of a Showman? Atkinson is the last in the Shank-iy-Clough-Docherty-Allison-McMenemy bloodline of sound-bite managers, all as colourful as billowing spinnafunctioned before the direc

Dumpty with an attack of ver-

tors took over the game. The Big Ron sobriquet is, perhaps, a little generous. Mr Bojangles, as he is also known, and who is more of a football man than his image would suggest, has a poor management record over recent years. If Coventry finally do go down, after three decades and £13 million of recent spending, he should be called Small Ron. Certainly more Ronnie Corbett than

ODDLE, meanwhile,

points to the future; a reserved, detached, thoughtful visionary with codles of lucre in the bank from an outstanding playing career, he is enough to make your average man-ager spit. If Chelsea had a halfdecent forward line their inventive football would surely have got them into Europe. Hoddle is interesting also ecause he is one of the few richly gifted footballers of

recent years to have made an ment. We are still waiting for George Best and Rodney Marsh, who look happier on stage than in the dug-out; and Tony Currie, Charlie George, Frank Worthington, Alan Hudson and many more pever

Bobby Charlton was a better footballer than his brothe but it was Big Jack's personal ity and grim pragmatism which triumphed in manage ment. Keegan and Robson were outstanding players without ever showing much innate natural talent.

This, though is good news for English football. If the limited players make the better managers we should soon have the best bosses in the

### Guardian Crossword No 20,631

Set by Quantum

Yet Botham has not really

lost out. There could be a lo

to gain from talking at length

to him and finding out exactly how he could contribute con-

structively: not as some moti-

vational totem stuck in the

dressing room — that would insult both his ability to im-

part knowledge and the

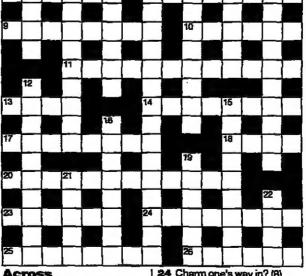
future machinations of the England set-up, which ought

to involve people trained in the psychology of motivation — but as a genuinely active

part of a support team. Eng-

land cannot have too much

help at the moment.



### 1 He's far off again (6)

- 5 A student following the reviewer is decisive (8)
- 9 Acid made from two salts
- 10 Cutback by one Church
- body to maintain order (6) 11 Old AB left filing disorderly
- cargo list (4,2,6)
- 13 Cheers team? It'll give one: lift (4)
- 14 Causing blockage in the road? (2,3,3)
- 17 Put out by hard corrosion? Body in water gets it (8)
- 18 The convention's crowded it's said (4) 20 Eccentric male goes in to
- emphasise equipment 23 It's delightful for the theological expert (6)
- 24 Charm one's way in? (8) 25 Collection in following
- season, they say, is "County" (8)
- 26 After rest the cow's sound to provide hide (3.3) solated chemically initially (8)

- 2 Piece of scenery failing in effect (4)
- 3 His stable could be set up as a business (9)
- 4 Old comic contains first of
- laughs? Only just (6) 5 Unwelcome one making a flying visit? (6,2,3,4)
- 6 Will a civil servant say it? It's
- disrespectful (8) 7 I had been in the front but
- took it easy (5) 8 Having unravelled case, can end in superior position (10)
- 12 Better cup coming up in com-Pany distributing cottee (10)

- 15 Describe in detail one working abroad I took in (9) 16 It gives support other than a
- 19 In the Solent I'll find a small 21 Musical not right for the
- 22 One making a sound comeback (4)

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